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Reabilitação cardiovascular na fase de manutenção em contexto domiciliário, com recurso à realidade virtual

Tese de Candidatura ao grau de Doutor em Ciências Biomédicas submetida ao Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar da Universidade do Porto.

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e ao meu Companheiro, Carlos, o meu porto seguro.***

“Tenho em mim todos os sonhos do mundo”

(Fernando Pessoa)

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Lista de estudos

Declaro que o autor desta tese participou ativamente na criação e execução do trabalho experimental que conduziu aos resultados aqui apresentados, bem como pela sua interpretação e redação para as publicações ou submissões aqui apresentadas, com a colaboração dos restantes autores.

O autor desta tese, **Ágata Vieira**, no primeiro estudo referido, enquanto segundo autor, contribuiu na conceção, desenho e planificação do trabalho científico, supervisão, aquisição de materiais, revisão da literatura e redação do manuscrito. Contudo, este estudo não será apresentado na tese, uma vez que o mesmo foi uma base para o estudo I, apresentado na Capítulo III.

Nos **estudos apresentados nesta tese**, especificamente os **estudos I a V** incluídos nos capítulos III a VII, o autor da tese, **Ágata Vieira**, enquanto primeira autora, contribuiu na conceção, desenho e planificação do trabalho científico, supervisão, inter-relação pessoal, aquisição de materiais, recolha e processamento de dados, análise e interpretação, revisão da literatura e redação dos manuscritos.

De acordo com a **SAGE** (Capítulo III, Estudo I), **Elsevier** (Capítulo IV, Estudo II) e **Taylor & Francis Group** (Capítulo V, Estudo III), no que diz respeito aos três estudos publicados, reproduzidos na tese de uma forma integral, as revistas permitem a integração do artigo, na forma apresentada, na tese. Relativamente aos estudos apenas submetidos (Capítulo VI, Estudo IV e Capítulo VII, Estudo V), as respetivas revistas, *Physiological Measurement* e *Acta Médica Portuguesa*, foram informadas, previamente à submissão, da inclusão dos estudos na tese, não tendo sido levantadas objeções.

Estudos publicados em revistas internacionais indexadas:

- Soares, J.C., **Vieira, Á**, Postolache, O, and Gabriel, J. (2013). Development of a Kinect Rehabilitation System. **Int J Online Eng** 9(S8), 38-40.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3991/ijoe.v9iS8.3378> (Short Paper)

Conforme referido acima, este estudo não será apresentado na tese, uma vez que o mesmo foi uma base para o estudo I, apresentado na Capítulo III.

- **Vieira, Á.**, Gabriel, J., Melo, C., and Machado, J. (2017). Kinect system in home-based cardiovascular rehabilitation. **Proc Inst Mech Eng H** 231(1), 40–47. <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0954411916679201> [Capítulo III, **Estudo I**]
- **Vieira, Á.S.S.**, Melo, M.C.D.A., Noites, A.R.S.S.P., Machado, J.P., and Gabriel, J.M. (2017). The effect of virtual reality on a home-based cardiac rehabilitation program on body composition, lipid profile and eating patterns: A randomized controlled trial. **Eur J Integr Med** 9C, 69–78. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eujim.2016.11.008> [Capítulo IV, **Estudo II**]
- **Vieira, Á.**, Melo, C., Machado, J., and Gabriel, J. (2017). Virtual reality exercise on a home-based phase III cardiac rehabilitation program, effect on executive function, quality of life and depression, anxiety and stress: a randomized controlled trial. **Disabil Rehabil Assist Technol**. [Epub ahead of print] <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2017.1297858> [Capítulo V, **Estudo III**]

Estudos submetidos em revistas internacionais indexadas:

- **Vieira, Á.**, Melo, C., Machado, J., and Gabriel, J. (2017). Virtual reality on a home-based maintenance phase cardiac rehabilitation programme, effect on balance and kyphotic index: a randomized controlled trial. *Physiological Measurement* (**submetido**). [Capítulo VI, **Estudo IV**]

Estudo submetidos em revistas portuguesas internacionais indexadas:

- **Vieira, Á.**, Melo, C., Noites, A., Machado, J., and Gabriel, J. (2017). Efeito de um programa de reabilitação cardíaca fase de manutenção em contexto domiciliário, com realidade virtual, na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, atividade física e tolerância ao esforço: um estudo randomizado controlado. *Acta Médica Portuguesa* (**submetido**). [Capítulo VII, **Estudo V**]

Resumo

As doenças cardiovasculares, nas quais se inclui a doença arterial coronária, uma das mais comuns, são das principais causas de morbilidade e mortalidade no mundo. Em Portugal, são atualmente a principal causa de mortalidade. Este trabalho centra-se nas doenças cardiovasculares, mais especificamente na doença arterial coronária, e respetivos programas de reabilitação cardiovascular, tendo a particularidade do contexto domiciliário e recurso à realidade virtual, especificamente com o uso do *Kinect* da *Microsoft*. Este trabalho teve assim como objetivo geral desenvolver um programa de exercícios específico, desenhado para ser realizado em contexto domiciliário, na fase de manutenção da reabilitação cardiovascular durante um período de seis meses, baseado nas potencialidades da realidade virtual assim como, analisar os seus efeitos em parâmetros metabólicos, cognitivos, psicossociais, posturais, funcionais e cardiovasculares, em indivíduos com doença arterial coronária. No âmbito desta tese, foram elaborados cinco estudos, um com a apresentação detalhada do sistema desenvolvido com recurso ao *Kinect*, realidade virtual, e recolha da opinião dos utilizadores (Estudo I), e quatro outros estudos (estudos randomizados controlados) para avaliar os parâmetros acima mencionados. Foram assim realizados quatro estudos randomizados controlados (Estudo II a V), com 33 indivíduos de um hospital no Porto, que tinham terminado a fase de treino da reabilitação cardiovascular. Estes indivíduos foram distribuídos aleatoriamente num grupo experimental 1 (formato realidade virtual) (n=11), cujo programa de seis meses incluía o uso do *Kinect*; grupo experimental 2 (formato convencional) (n=11), um livrete em papel; ou grupo controlo, apenas sujeito aos cuidados habituais (n=11). Os três grupos receberam educação sobre fatores de risco cardiovascular.

No estudo I, os participantes do formato realidade virtual responderam a um questionário no final do programa de seis meses, de forma a recolher a sua opinião relativamente à utilização do *Kinect*. De acordo com os resultados, 91% dos participantes apreciaram o grafismo, enquanto 100% concordaram com a importância e utilidade da contagem automática do número de repetições, além disso 64% relataram motivação para continuar a realizar o programa após o final do estudo, e 100% reconheceram o *Kinect* como um instrumento com potencial para ser uma mais-valia na reabilitação cardiovascular. As críticas que foram apontadas incluíram limitações na captação do movimento e reconhecimento dos gestos (91%) e a falta de espaço em casa (27%). De acordo com a opinião dos utilizadores, o *Kinect* apresenta potencial para ser um recurso na reabilitação cardiovascular, contudo, vários detalhes técnicos precisam de ser melhorados – Capítulo III.

No que diz respeito aos estudos randomizados controlados, no estudo II foram avaliadas a composição corporal (Balança de bioimpedância e Fita métrica) e padrões de consumo

alimentar (Questionário semi-quantitativo de frequência alimentar), antes de iniciar o programa, aos três e seis meses, e o perfil lipídico (Análises laboratoriais), antes de iniciar o programa e três meses após o término do programa. O formato realidade virtual apresentou benefícios na composição corporal, especificamente no rácio cintura-anca, nos primeiros três meses do programa quando comparado com o grupo controlo ($p \leq 0.05$). O programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao grupo controlo e entre os diferentes formatos, nos padrões de consumo alimentar e perfil lipídico – Capítulo IV.

No estudo III foram avaliadas, antes de iniciar o programa, aos três e seis meses, a função executiva, especificamente a capacidade de alternância de informação (Teste *Trail Making*), assim como memória de trabalho (Teste *Verbal Digit Span*), e capacidade de atenção seletiva e resolução de conflitos (Teste *Stroop*), qualidade de vida (Questionário *MacNew*), e depressão, ansiedade e *stress* (Escala de Ansiedade Depressão e *Stress 21*). O formato realidade virtual apresentou benefícios na função executiva, especificamente na capacidade de atenção seletiva e resolução de conflitos, no decorrer dos seis meses, quando comparado com o grupo controlo e formato convencional ($p \leq 0.05$). O programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao grupo controlo e entre os diferentes formatos, na qualidade de vida, e depressão, ansiedade, e *stress* – Capítulo V.

No estudo IV foram ainda avaliados o equilíbrio, estático (Teste *One-Leg-Standing*) e dinâmico (Teste *Star Excursion Balance*), e o índice cifótico (*Flexicurve*), antes de iniciar o programa, aos três e seis meses. O formato realidade virtual apresentou alguns benefícios no equilíbrio dinâmico e benefícios no índice cifótico, ao longo dos 6 meses, quando comparado com o grupo controlo ($p \leq 0.05$), enquanto que o formato convencional apresentou apenas alguns benefícios no equilíbrio dinâmico, ao longo dos 6 meses, quando comparado com o grupo controlo ($p \leq 0.05$). No que diz respeito ao equilíbrio estático, o programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao grupo controlo e entre os diferentes formatos – Capítulo VI.

Por fim, no estudo V, foram avaliadas a força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores (Teste *Sit-to-Stand*), antes de iniciar o programa, aos três e seis meses, a atividade física (Acelerómetro), antes de iniciar o programa, aos seis meses e três meses após o término do programa, e a tolerância ao esforço (Provas de esforço), antes de iniciar o programa e três meses após o término do programa. O formato realidade virtual poderá ter beneficiado a força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, aos três e seis meses, quando comparado com o formato convencional ($p \leq 0.05$). O programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao grupo controlo e entre os diferentes formatos, na atividade física e tolerância ao esforço – Capítulo VII.

Conclui-se assim, que o programa de exercícios específico, realizado durante seis meses em contexto domiciliário na fase de manutenção da reabilitação cardiovascular, poderá ter sido uma mais-valia, em particular quando realizado com a realidade virtual, em parâmetros metabólicos, cognitivos, posturais e funcionais, não esquecendo o *feedback* positivo dos utilizadores do *Kinect*. Desta forma, este trabalho apoia a pertinência da fase de manutenção da reabilitação cardiovascular assim como, a importância da avaliação de diferentes parâmetros, reforçando a utilidade e aplicabilidade do contexto domiciliário, e revelando principalmente a potencialidade do *Kinect* e realidade virtual, tendo por base um sistema de telereabilitação, enquanto ferramentas úteis e válidas a serem consideradas na reabilitação cardiovascular.

Abstract

Cardiovascular diseases, such as coronary artery disease, one of the most common, are one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the world. In Portugal, they are currently the main cause of death. This work focuses on cardiovascular diseases, particularly coronary artery disease, and respective cardiovascular rehabilitation programs, with the particularity of the home context and recourse to virtual reality, specifically with the use of Microsoft Kinect. This work had as a general objective to develop a specific exercise program, designed to be performed in a home context, at the maintenance phase of cardiovascular rehabilitation over a six-month period, bearing in mind the potentials of virtual reality as well as, to analyze its effects on metabolic, cognitive, psychosocial, postural, functional and cardiovascular parameters, in subjects with coronary artery disease. Within this thesis, five studies were carried out, one with a detailed presentation of the develop system encompassing the use of Kinect, virtual reality, followed by a collection of the users' feedback (Study I), and four other studies (randomized controlled trials) to assess the aforementioned parameters. Four randomized controlled trials (Studies II to V) were so conducted, with 33 subjects from a hospital of Porto, who had completed the training phase of cardiovascular rehabilitation. These subjects were randomly assigned to an intervention group 1 (virtual reality format) (n=11), whose six-month program encompassed the use of Kinect; intervention group 2 (conventional format) (n=11), a paper booklet; or control group, only subjected to the usual care (n=11). The three groups received education on cardiovascular risk factors.

In study I, the participants assigned to the virtual reality format filled in a questionnaire at the end of the six-month program, expressing their opinion regarding the use of Kinect. According to the results, 91% of the participants enjoyed the artwork, while 100% agreed on the importance and usefulness of the automatic counting of the number of repetitions, besides 64% reported motivation to continue performing the program after the study's completion, and 100% recognized Kinect as an instrument with potential to become an asset in cardiovascular rehabilitation. The criticisms that were pointed out included limitations in the motion capture and gesture recognition (91%), and the lack of home space (27%). According to the users' opinion, Kinect has the potential to be used in cardiovascular rehabilitation, even though, several technical details are in need of an improvement – Chapter III.

Regarding the randomized controlled trials, in study II were assessed the body composition (Bioimpedance scale and Tape measure) and eating patterns (Semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire) at baseline, three and six months, and the lipid profile (Laboratory tests) at baseline and three months after the program' conclusion. The virtual reality format showed benefits in body composition, specifically in the waist-hip ratio, in the first three months

of the program when compared to the control group ($p \leq 0.05$). The exercise program did not show significant superior results, regarding the control group and between the different formats, in the eating patterns and lipid profile – Chapter IV.

In study III were assessed, at baseline, three and six months, the executive function, specifically the ability to switch information (Trail Making test), as well as working memory (Verbal Digit Span test), and selective attention and conflict resolution ability (Stroop test), quality of life (MacNew questionnaire), and depression, anxiety, and stress (Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale 21). The virtual reality format showed benefits in executive function, specifically in selective attention and conflict resolution ability, during the six months, when compared to the control group and the conventional format ($p \leq 0.05$). The exercise program did not show significant superior results, regarding the control group and between the different formats, in the quality of life, and depression, anxiety, and stress – Chapter V.

In Study IV were still assessed the balance, static (One-Leg-Standing test) and dynamic (Star Excursion Balance test), and the kyphotic index (Flexicurve), at baseline, three and six months. The virtual reality format showed some benefits in dynamic balance and benefits in the kyphotic index, during the six months, when compared to the control group ($p \leq 0.05$), whereas the conventional format showed only some benefits in the dynamic balance, during the six months, when compared to the control group ($p \leq 0.05$). Regarding static balance, the exercise program did not show significant superior results, regarding the control group and between the different formats – Chapter VI.

Finally, in the study V, were assessed functional muscle strength of the lower limbs (Sit-to-Stand test), at baseline, three and six months, physical activity (Accelerometer), at baseline, six months and three months after the program' conclusion, and cardiorespiratory fitness (Stress test), at baseline and three months after the program' conclusion. The virtual reality format may have benefited the functional muscle strength of the lower limbs, at three and six months, when compared with the conventional format ($p \leq 0.05$). The exercise program did not show significant superior results, regarding the control group and between the different formats, in the physical activity and cardiorespiratory fitness – Chapter VII.

It is concluded, that the specific exercise program, performed at home context over a period of six months at the maintenance phase of cardiovascular rehabilitation, might have been an asset, particularly when performed with the virtual reality, in metabolic, cognitive, postural and functional parameters, not forgetting the positive feedback from the Kinect users. This work therefore supports the relevance of the maintenance phase of cardiovascular rehabilitation as well as, the importance of assessing different parameters, reinforcing the utility and applicability of the home context, and mainly revealing the potential of Kinect and virtual reality, based on a telerehabilitation system, as useful and valid tools to be considered in cardiovascular rehabilitation.

Organização da tese

A tese está organizada em IX capítulos.

O **capítulo I** é uma introdução geral com o estado de arte dos tópicos chave da tese.

O **capítulo II** compreende a apresentação do contexto da tese e objetivos da tese, geral e, estudo a estudo (I a V), específicos, contextualizando os estudos e explicando como estes se articulam.

Os **capítulos III a VII** contêm os estudos realizados, I a V, publicados e submetidos, reproduzidos de uma forma integral.

O **capítulo VIII** inclui as conclusões da tese, destacando as realizações mais relevantes, e a apresentação das perspectivas futuras.

Por fim, o **capítulo IX**, anexos, inclui material utilizado e de apoio aos estudos que se considerou pertinente apresentar.

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Lista de abreviaturas

ACS Acute coronary syndrome

CG Control Group

CR Cardiac Rehabilitation

CVR Cardiovascular Rehabilitation

DASS 21 Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale 21

DP Desvio padrão

FC Frequência cardíaca

GC Grupo controlo

GE1 Grupo experimental 1

GE2 Grupo experimental 2

HR Heart rate

ICC Intraclass correlation coefficient

IG1 Intervention group 1

IG2 Intervention group 2

IMC Índice de massa corporal

IQR Interquartile range

M0 Momento inicial/ Baseline/initial moment

M1 Momento intermédio (3 meses)/Intermediate moment (3 months)

M2 Momento final (6 meses)/Final moment (6 months)

M3 Três meses após o término do programa /Three months after the program's completion

Md Median

MET Equivalentes metabólicos

MoCA Montreal Cognitive Assessment

NS Não significativo/Non-significant

OLS One-Leg-Standing

RC Reabilitação Cardíaca

RCV Reabilitação Cardiovascular

SCA Síndrome coronária aguda

SD Standard deviation

SEBT Star Excursion Balance Test

SPSS Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

TMT Trail Making Test

VDS Verbal Digit Span

X Média/ Mean

CAPÍTULO I

Introdução geral

Introdução geral

Doenças cardiovasculares e doença arterial coronária

As doenças cardiovasculares continuam a ser das principais causas de morbilidade e mortalidade no mundo, apesar das melhorias nos resultados (Piepoli et al., 2016). De acordo com Townsend et al. (2016), as doenças cardiovasculares continuam a ser a causa mais comum de morte em todo o mundo, com o estudo *Global Burden of Disease* 2013 a estimar que as doenças cardiovasculares causaram 17.3 milhões de mortes entre 1990 e 2013. Ainda de acordo com Townsend et al. (2016), as estatísticas de mortalidade mostram que as doenças cardiovasculares continuam a ser a causa mais comum de morte na Europa, representando 45% de todas as mortes; 49% das mortes entre mulheres e 40% entre os homens. Mais de 4 milhões de pessoas morrem de doenças cardiovasculares em toda a Europa todos os anos, com 1.4 milhões destas mortes antes dos 75 anos de idade (Townsend et al., 2016).

Em Portugal, no ano de 2012, as doenças cardiovasculares, nas quais se inclui a doença cerebrovascular e a doença arterial coronária, as duas componentes essenciais da mortalidade por doenças cardiovasculares, representaram a maior causa de morte, 30.4%, contudo, este número tem vindo a diminuir significativamente nos últimos 25 anos (decréscimo de 15%) devido principalmente à melhoria nos cuidados médico-farmacêuticos prestados (Direção-Geral da Saúde, 2014). Em 2015, não houve qualquer alteração relevante da posição das doenças cardiovasculares como principal causa de morte, contudo, manteve-se a tendência decrescente e pela primeira vez, representaram um valor inferior a 30% (Direção-Geral da Saúde, 2015).

De acordo com a Direção-Geral da Saúde (2015), dentro das doenças cardiovasculares, a taxa de mortalidade por doenças cerebrovasculares é continuamente superior à da doença arterial coronária (incluindo o enfarte agudo do miocárdio). Contudo, esta proporção é inversa à verificada na maioria dos países europeus e até mesmo mediterrânicos, por razões ainda não completamente esclarecidas (Direção-Geral da Saúde, 2015).

Na doença arterial coronária, ocorre uma diminuição do aporte sanguíneo ao tecido cardíaco, frequentemente por estenose de uma ou mais artérias coronárias, após estarem instaladas alterações patológicas como a acumulação de placas ateroscleróticas (Pinho et al., 2010; Börjesson et al., 2010). Com a formação destas placas, há um endurecimento e estreitamento, com possível oclusão, das artérias coronárias e uma consequente redução do aporte de sangue rico em nutrientes e oxigénio às células do miocárdio (Anderson et al., 2016; Dolatabadi et al., 2016; Hinkel and Kupatt, 2017).

Vários fatores de risco para a doença arterial coronária estão relacionados com a disfunção endotelial, sendo que o endotélio está envolvido na progressão da aterosclerose (Pinho et al., 2010). É assim fundamental atuar na prevenção e controlo dos fatores de risco cardiovascular (Magalhães et al., 2013). A idade, sexo, raça e história familiar de doença cardíaca são fatores de risco cardiovascular não modificáveis, já o sedentarismo, hipertensão arterial, tabagismo, obesidade, diabetes *mellitus* e dislipidemia são fatores de risco modificáveis para a doença arterial coronária (Anderson et al., 2016).

Relativamente ao sedentarismo, níveis mais elevados de aptidão cardiorrespiratória e atividade física são de enorme benefício para a saúde global, capacidade funcional, qualidade de vida e longevidade, no entanto, a aptidão cardiorrespiratória e atividade física continuam a diminuir (Arena et al., 2015). Segundo Arena et al. (2015), os profissionais de saúde não têm salientado a importância da aptidão cardiorrespiratória e atividade física aos pacientes tanto como devem.

De acordo com Lavie et al. (2009), considerável evidência indica ainda que fatores psicológicos, como a depressão, ansiedade, hostilidade e *stress* psicológico são fortes fatores de risco para as doenças cardiovasculares e adversamente afetam a recuperação após grandes eventos cardiovasculares.

O desconforto torácico agudo constitui geralmente a apresentação clínica de isquemia do miocárdio, sendo que o diagnóstico diferencial terá que distinguir as causas isquémicas derivadas da doença arterial coronária, como a síndrome coronária aguda (SCA) ou angina do peito estável das não-isquémicas (Macedo and Rosa, 2010).

O termo SCA é caracterizado por um desequilíbrio entre a oferta e a procura de oxigénio pelo miocárdio, e inclui duas formas de apresentação da lesão isquémica deste tecido (Macedo and Rosa, 2010). A primeira refere-se às síndromes sem elevação do segmento ST que inclui a angina instável e o enfarte do miocárdio sem elevação do segmento ST cuja fisiopatologia e apresentação é considerada semelhante, mas diferem principalmente na gravidade da isquemia e na sua capacidade de provocar lesão com libertação de quantidades detetáveis de marcadores de necrose miocárdica. A outra forma de apresentação é o enfarte do miocárdio com elevação do segmento ST, devido à manifestação eletrocardiográfica da oclusão da artéria coronária que dá o nome à síndrome (Macedo and Rosa, 2010).

Reabilitação cardiovascular

Com o avanço nas terapias, a sobrevivência hospitalar após enfarte agudo do miocárdio melhorou drasticamente e assim um grande número de sobreviventes estão a ter alta do hospital para a comunidade e estão em risco de readmissão (Dunlay et al., 2014), uma vez

que os sobreviventes da síndrome coronária aguda têm risco aumentado de desenvolver novos eventos cardiovasculares (Macedo and Rosa, 2010). Assim, apesar do índice de mortalidade pela doença arterial coronária ter vindo a diminuir, em particular em países desenvolvidos, está a haver um aumento no número de indivíduos que vive com esta e que precisa de ajuda na gestão dos sintomas e na redução de problemas futuros relacionados com a mesma (Anderson et al., 2016). A melhoria das técnicas de diagnóstico e das terapêuticas de fase aguda possibilitaram a melhoria da sobrevida dos pacientes com enfarte agudo do miocárdio, tornando pertinente o desenvolvimento de estratégias de prevenção secundária (Silveira and Abreu, 2016).

Tem-se verificado uma melhoria na quantidade e qualidade dos serviços primários, secundários e terciários prestados à população, tal como o aumento de conhecimento da patologia e das intervenções mais adequadas para esta (Direção-Geral da Saúde, 2014). Orientando o indivíduo para a reintegração social, foram criados os programas de reabilitação cardiovascular (RCV) (Magalhães et al., 2013).

De acordo com Gomes (2008), a reabilitação cardíaca (RC), pelo facto de ser uma intervenção multidisciplinar que vai ter um impacto importante em todo o sistema circulatório e não apenas ao nível do coração é tendencialmente apelidada de RCV. Assim, em toda a tese optou-se pelo termo RCV, com a exceção dos estudos randomizados controlados, em que por sugestão dos revisores utilizou-se o termo RC.

A RCV é uma parte essencial da gestão da doença arterial coronária com o objetivo de otimizar a redução de risco cardiovascular, facilitar a adoção e a adesão a comportamentos saudáveis, reduzir a deficiência e promover um estilo de vida ativo (Rawstorn et al., 2016). Constitui um conjunto de atividades coordenadas que influenciam favoravelmente a causa de doença cardiovascular, assim como, providenciam a melhoria da condição física, mental e social destes pacientes (Anderson et al., 2016).

De uma forma mais detalhada, os programas de RCV têm como objetivos informar e educar o paciente relativamente à sua patologia, formas de intervenção e controlo dos fatores de risco cardiovascular, prescrever planos de exercício físico de acordo com a estratificação do risco e melhorar a sua capacidade funcional e qualidade de vida (Magalhães et al., 2013). São programas baseados no exercício físico, adaptados a cada paciente, que têm em vista restabelecer e melhorar a função cardíaca, diminuir a incapacidade e os custos de tratamento (Macedo and Rosa, 2010). Segundo Sallis et al. (2015), o exercício deve ser visto como um medicamento custo-efetivo que é universalmente prescrito como um tratamento de primeira linha para praticamente todas as doenças crónicas.

De acordo com Silveira and Abreu (2016), os programas de RCV evoluíram, deixaram de se basear apenas no exercício físico e são atualmente programas abrangentes de prevenção secundária. A RCV pode ser vista como um método clínico de prevenção através de uma

abordagem multidisciplinar para a redução do risco cardiovascular global (EACPR Committee for Science Guidelines, 2010; Hamm et al., 2010), sendo um programa abrangente que envolve protocolos de exercício físico, modificação de fatores de risco cardiovascular, educação e apoio psicológico (Piepoli et al., 2016). É determinada a zona-alvo de treino, que representa os limites da frequência cardíaca (FC), que caracterizam a dose mais apropriada de exercício maximizando os benefícios e minimizando os riscos e efeitos indesejáveis (Thow, 2006). A RCV deve assim incluir treino progressivo e individualizado aeróbio e de força (Rawstorn et al., 2016). Embora o exercício físico seja o componente central, as diretrizes atuais consistentemente recomendam programas de "reabilitação integral" que devem incluir outras componentes para otimizar a redução de risco cardiovascular, promover comportamentos saudáveis, reduzir a deficiência e promover um estilo de vida ativo (Dalal et al., 2015).

De acordo com Sandesara et al. (2015), efeitos cardioprotetores benéficos da atividade física e aptidão cardiorrespiratória incluem melhorias em vários fatores de risco para a doença cardiovascular aterosclerótica (diminuição do colesterol total, colesterol - lipoproteína de baixa densidade e triglicerídeos; aumento dos níveis de colesterol - lipoproteína de alta densidade; redução da tensão arterial; aumento da sensibilidade à insulina; redução de peso), juntamente com efeitos antiaterogénicos (melhoria de fatores de risco para a doença cardiovascular aterosclerótica estabelecidos; melhoria da função endotelial devido ao aumento do fluxo sanguíneo e *stress* de cisalhamento nas paredes arteriais; reforço da síntese e libertação de óxido nítrico, que é responsável pela inibição de processos envolvidos na aterogénese), anti-inflamatórios (redução do nível plasmático da proteína C-reativa, que é um biomarcador de inflamação), anti-isquémicos (melhoria da perfusão miocárdica; aumento do limiar de isquemia; pré-condicionamento isquémico do miocárdio), antitrombóticos (diminuição da agregação plaquetária; melhoria da atividade de fibrinólise) e antiarrítmicos (melhoria da função autonómica cardíaca; aumento do tónus vagal e diminuição da atividade simpática). Evidências sugerem que programas de RCV estão associados com o aumento da capacidade de exercício e capacidade funcional, com melhorias nos índices de obesidade, níveis de lípidos plasmáticos (perfil lipídico), equivalentes metabólicos (MET), metabolismo da glicose, inflamação, função autonómica, reologia do sangue e fatores de risco psicológicos, apresentando melhorias na qualidade de vida e redução dos custos hospitalares (Blair et al., 2011; Lavie et al., 2009). O exercício tem demonstrado ter benefícios diretos no coração e vascularização coronária, incluindo a demanda de oxigénio do miocárdio, função endotelial, função autonómica, fatores de coagulação, marcadores inflamatórios e o desenvolvimento de vasos colaterais coronários (Anderson et al., 2016). No entanto, segundo Anderson et al. (2016), a diminuição da mortalidade também pode ser mediada via os efeitos indiretos do exercício através de melhorias nos fatores de risco para doença aterosclerótica.

A RCV reduz a mortalidade, morbidade, readmissões hospitalares, além de que as melhorias na capacidade de exercício, qualidade de vida e bem-estar psicológico têm vindo a aumentar (Dalal et al., 2015). Uma série de estudos recentes de corte controlados encontraram um benefício na sobrevivência para os pacientes a receber RCV em comparação com os que não recebem (Piepoli et al., 2016). Segundo Silveira and Abreu (2016), vários estudos e meta-análises têm demonstrado os benefícios da RCV, nomeadamente na doença arterial coronária, redução da mortalidade total (20%), redução da mortalidade cardíaca (26%) e redução de reinternamentos hospitalares (25%). Tendo como base estes resultados, quer as *guidelines* da *American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Foundation*, quer as da *European Society of Cardiology* atribuíram à RCV, na doença arterial coronária, uma recomendação classe I (Silveira and Abreu, 2016).

A participação no exercício habitual não só tem um impacto potencial nas funções fisiológicas, incluindo a redução de fatores de risco cardiovascular modificáveis, mas pode também ajudar e melhorar os resultados psicossociais (Thow, 2006). O exercício habitual tem potencial para benefícios como a redução da depressão e ansiedade, reforço do estado do humor, reforço da autoeficácia, restauração de autoconfiança, diminuição do comportamento de doença, maior interação social, retoma das tarefas/passatempos, retoma da atividade sexual e retorno ao trabalho (Thow, 2006).

De referir que, segundo Rawstorn et al. (2016), os programas de RCV são mais custo-eficazes no aumento da esperança de vida do que muitas terapias farmacológicas comuns e intervenções cirúrgicas. Os pacientes devem assim ser educados sobre o impacto positivo da participação na RCV e sobre os resultados a longo prazo após enfarte agudo do miocárdio (Dunlay et al., 2014).

Os programas de RCV são compostos por três fases. Na fase I, intra-hospitalar, a reabilitação representa a primeira intervenção de prevenção secundária, começando imediatamente após o evento cardíaco durante a estadia no hospital; na fase II, aplicam-se programas de prevenção precoce em ambulatório, aposta-se numa intervenção terapêutica, abrangente e multidisciplinar, que começa logo após a alta hospitalar e foca-se em vários componentes; a fase III centra-se na prevenção a longo prazo, representando a supervisão em ambulatório a longo prazo da adesão do paciente ao estilo de vida prescrito (Piepoli et al., 2015).

A fase II, também apelidada de treino, desenvolve-se geralmente em regime de ambulatório, com supervisão de uma equipa multidisciplinar e varia no seu conteúdo, apesar de geralmente incluir módulos de intervenção individual e em grupo, que deverão contemplar a prescrição de exercício estruturado e acompanhamento através de sessões dirigidas à alteração de comportamentos de risco para as doenças cardiovasculares (Pescatello et al., 2014; Thow, 2006; Silva, 2007). Tem como objetivo ajudar o paciente a adquirir o conhecimento e competências necessárias para a alteração de comportamentos e modificação de estilos de

vida e otimização da sua capacidade aeróbia e funcional face às limitações impostas pela sua condição, sendo ainda objetivo ajudar os pacientes a aprenderem a auto-monitorizarem o seu exercício e a aumentar, com segurança, o nível atividade em casa e noutros ambientes de exercício, de forma a promover a sua reinserção na vida ativa e participação na sociedade (Pescatello et al., 2014; Thow, 2006; Silva, 2007). Os benefícios da RCV, anteriormente apresentados, enquadram-se nesta fase.

Na última fase, fase III, também denominada de manutenção, sobre a qual se debruça o presente trabalho, o paciente é encorajado a manter a atividade física bem como os hábitos saudáveis que adquiriu (Magalhães et al., 2013; Pescatello et al., 2014; Perk et al., 2012; Silva, 2007). Esta pode prolongar-se durante meses, anos ou mesmo por toda a vida e pretende preservar a longo prazo as capacidades e comportamentos desenvolvidos na fase anterior, de treino, focando-se assim na autorregulação do paciente e adoção de comportamentos saudáveis (Silva, 2007). Compreende-se assim, que a RCV é uma intervenção/aposta a longo prazo.

Contudo, a participação de pacientes elegíveis na RCV permanece pobre (Blair et al., 2011; Sandesara et al., 2015), esta permanece subutilizada por sobreviventes de enfarte agudo do miocárdio (Dunlay et al., 2014). A adesão por parte dos pacientes mantém-se abaixo do que seria ideal, sendo que os principais motivos estão relacionados com a acessibilidade e disponibilidade para se deslocarem ao hospital ou centros de reabilitação (Dalal et al., 2010; Rawstorn et al., 2016), uma vez que a maioria dos programas de RCV é limitada aos hospitais em grandes áreas urbanas (Hamm et al., 2011). Para além disso, segundo Sandesara et al. (2015), há pelo menos 4 razões para os pacientes elegíveis não serem referidos para RCV: falta de um método centralizado para referência; inadequada comunicação entre equipas de tratamento, pacientes e instalações de RCV; não familiaridade com RCV entre os potenciais médicos referenciadores; e limitado acesso, responsabilidades concorrentes e inconveniência para o paciente. Assim, apesar da eficácia clínica comprovada dos programas de RCV, os benefícios a longo prazo, são muitas vezes dececionantes, principalmente devido à baixa taxa de adesão à RCV (Frederix et al., 2016). Várias recomendações chave para melhorar as taxas de participação da RCV incluem educação de pacientes e prestadores sobre os benefícios da RCV, implementação de abordagens que melhorem a referência para a RCV e melhoria da acessibilidade e apoio financeiro aos programas (Dunlay et al., 2014).

Segundo Silveira and Abreu (2016), quando falamos de Portugal, apesar dos benefícios bem documentados, a RCV continua a ser subutilizada com poucos programas de RCV implantados. Considerando a fase de treino, o número de centros com programas de RCV e o volume de pacientes reabilitados evoluiu consideravelmente em Portugal entre 2007 e 2013-14, contudo, Portugal ainda está muito abaixo da média europeia (Silveira and Abreu, 2016).

Reabilitação cardiovascular em contexto domiciliário

De forma a proporcionar um programa de autoajuda baseado na comunidade para pacientes que podem não ser capazes de assistir repetidamente a um programa em contexto hospitalar foi criada a RCV em contexto domiciliário (Blair et al., 2011; Dalal et al., 2015). Esta opção surgiu especialmente direcionada para a fase de treino. Os programas em contexto domiciliário são uma alternativa válida (Soares et al., 2013), uma vez que com a crescente carga financeira da doença arterial coronária em todo o mundo, o desenvolvimento de um método baseado na comunidade poderá ser mais custo-efetivo (Blair et al., 2011). Para além disso, falando da fase de manutenção e da sua importância tendo em conta os objetivos e princípios da RCV, após o término da fase de treino os pacientes podem carecer de autodisciplina para a realização de exercício ou recursos financeiros para integrar um programa de RCV particular, uma vez que a fase de manutenção, enquanto programa de exercícios, na grande maioria das vezes, não está coberta ou não é realizada pelo sistema nacional de saúde. Uma forma de combater isso podem ser os programas em contexto domiciliário.

De um ponto de vista geral, segundo Blair et al. (2011), a RCV em contexto domiciliário é uma terapia segura e eficaz, que poderia, e possivelmente deve ser oferecida a todos os pacientes cardíacos elegíveis. Programas de RCV em hospitais ou domicílios parecem ser igualmente eficazes na melhoria dos resultados clínicos (mortalidade, eventos cardíacos, tolerância ao exercício, fatores de risco modificáveis (tensão arterial e colesterol total) e da qualidade de vida relacionada com a saúde) (Dalal et al., 2010). A avaliação dos pacientes parece mostrar pouca ou nenhuma diferença de resultados no que diz respeito aos resultados na atividade física sugerindo que não há nenhuma diferença entre essas duas abordagens para a RCV e que ambas são igualmente eficazes, sendo que tem sido sugerido por pacientes que realizam a RCV em contexto domiciliário que a RCV é vista mais como uma mudança de estilo de vida e não só um tratamento (Blair et al., 2011). Segundo Taylor et al. (2015), ambos parecem ser igualmente eficazes na melhoria da qualidade de vida em pacientes de baixo risco após enfarte agudo do miocárdio ou revascularização, ou com insuficiência cardíaca. Para além disso, os programas de RCV em contexto domiciliário parecem ter a vantagem de uma maior taxa de adesão, provavelmente por combater algumas das causas da sua subutilização, e parecem manter níveis melhores de atividade física (Balady et al., 2011; Blair et al., 2011, Oerkild et al., 2012). Além disso, tem o potencial de ser uma intervenção mais económica para os pacientes que não podem ter um acesso fácil ao seu centro local ou hospital (Blair et al., 2011) ou, no caso da fase de manutenção, outro promotor de exercício. Estes pressupostos aplicam-se assim a ambas as fases da RCV, treino e manutenção.

Existem diferentes programas em contexto domiciliário que podem incluir uma combinação de visitas domiciliárias, suporte por telefone ou e-mail, telemedicina ou material de autoeducação especificamente desenvolvido (Soares et al., 2013). De acordo com Sandesara et al. (2015), novos modelos devem ser adotados, especialmente para pacientes de risco baixo ou baixo-moderado, incluindo o uso da telemedicina, bem como programas com recurso à Internet, em contexto domiciliário e na comunidade como alternativas aos programas convencionais.

O programa, em contexto domiciliário, mais amplamente utilizado no Reino Unido é o “Manual do coração”, uma intervenção de seis semanas que usa material escrito e um CD de relaxamento e é entregue por um profissional de saúde especializado, que faz visitas domiciliárias e fornece suporte por telefone; este tem demonstrado ser tão eficaz como os programas convencionais no hospital (Dalal et al., 2015). Todos os aspetos de um programa multidisciplinar completo são abordados, sendo que o programa de atividade física recorre a um programa de caminhada diária, mas também se estende às atividades físicas ou passatempos do paciente que o possam favorecer (Dalal et al., 2010).

Segundo Rawstorn et al. (2016), os programas em contexto domiciliário permitem superar uma série de barreiras dos programas hospitalares e fornecer comparáveis efeitos sobre a mortalidade, o risco de eventos coronários recorrentes e fatores de risco cardiovascular, mas não fornecem supervisão durante o exercício ou otimização individual da prescrição de exercício. Contudo, Piepoli et al. (2016) defende que a RCV em contexto domiciliário, com e sem telemonitorização, é uma promessa para aumentar a participação e apoio à mudança comportamental. Mais uma vez, embora especialmente direcionado para a fase de treino, o mesmo pressuposto aplica-se à fase de manutenção.

Estão assim a surgir novas formas de proporcionar a RCV, utilizando a Internet, os telemóveis, e outras tecnologias de comunicação (Dalal et al., 2015). O uso de tecnologias de informação e comunicação, telessaúde, pode ser uma alternativa e mais-valia para os programas de RCV em contexto domiciliário, pois permitem a prestação de *feedback* adicional, educação e aconselhamento, e desta forma fornecem-se opções adicionais para pacientes cujas necessidades não são atendidas pelos serviços existentes (Rawstorn et al., 2016). A maioria das intervenções são baseadas em aconselhamento por telefone, com algum uso de mensagens telefónicas e e-mail (Rawstorn et al., 2016).

A telereabilitação, que tem por base a telessaúde, segundo Soares et al. (2013) é a prestação de serviços de reabilitação à distância com recurso às telecomunicações e tecnologias de informação, potencialmente minimizando as barreiras da distância, tempo e custo.

Reabilitação cardiovascular e realidade virtual

Tendo em conta as particularidades do contexto domiciliário, os programas de RCV com recurso à realidade virtual podem ser uma alternativa viável e positiva, tornando mais agradável a tarefa do exercício.

As novas tecnologias contribuem para um acréscimo de estratégias de intervenção inovadoras que podem permitir aumentar a motivação e predisposição dos indivíduos para a realização do seu processo de reabilitação (Dahl-Popolizio et al., 2014). Exemplos populares incluem o *Nintendo Wii Remote*, o *PlayStation Move* e o *Microsoft Kinect* (Chang et al., 2012). As novas tecnologias oferecessem um meio potencial para melhorar o envolvimento do paciente na terapia tradicional, como o uso de computadores e equipamentos de jogo, estando os programas virtuais de exercícios a tornar-se cada vez mais populares na reabilitação em geral, sendo o *Kinect* uma possível ferramenta (Dahl-Popolizio et al., 2014), podendo os mesmos ser assim usados na RCV.

Uma das abordagens mais recentes da realidade virtual é o *Kinect*, tal como o sistema desenvolvido no presente trabalho (Figura 1).



Figura 1. Sistema *Kinect-RehabPlay*.

De acordo com Dahl-Popolizio et al. (2014), a tecnologia de terapia mãos-livres pode ser uma solução interessante, permitindo aos pacientes envolverem-se com êxito no seu plano de tratamento em contexto domiciliário. Vários estudos identificam o potencial do *Kinect* para uso em reabilitação (Chang et al., 2012), contudo há uma escassez de pesquisa sobre o uso do *Kinect* como uma ferramenta terapêutica (Dahl-Popolizio et al., 2014). Chang et al. (2012) validou experimentalmente que o *Kinect* não só é conveniente de usar, mas também fornece um nível aceitável de qualidade de acompanhamento de desempenho. O *Kinect* tem uma câmara de vídeo, juntamente com um sensor de profundidade, o que torna possível medir a

distância entre um objeto e o *Kinect* (Kitsunezaki et al., 2013). A tecnologia em tempo real e o sensor de movimento da *Microsoft* pode tornar a reabilitação mais bem-sucedida e divertida; o *Kinect* é barato, fácil de configurar e pode ser usado em ambientes clínicos e em contexto domiciliário, podendo esta acessibilidade facilitar a reabilitação (Chang et al., 2012), e assim permitir aos participantes aumentarem a sua motivação para a reabilitação física (Chang et al., 2011).

Tal como referido por Pirovano et al. (2012), é importante não esquecer que os jogos de reabilitação devem ser projetados em cooperação com os terapeutas de forma a respeitar as restrições colocadas pelos protocolos clínicos e cumprir os objetivos de reabilitação definidos. Os mesmos devem ser adequados ao conjunto de objetivos de reabilitação e adaptados ao estado clínico de cada paciente, sendo o papel do terapeuta fundamental; o terapeuta tem que prescrever programas de reabilitação personalizados e ajustar os exercícios, modificando os seus parâmetros para coincidir com a progressão e a situação real do paciente (Pirovano et al., 2012).

Assim, a realização de um programa de RCV, em contexto domiciliário, com recurso a um sistema que fornece um *feedback* imediato relativamente ao protocolo de exercícios, tal como o *Kinect*, apostando num sistema adaptado de telereabilitação que também recorre a mensagens telefónicas, e-mails e telefonemas, tal como contactos presenciais, parece ser uma linha de investigação a explorar.

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CAPÍTULO II

Contexto e objetivos da tese

Contexto e objetivos da tese

Num ambiente de reabilitação cardiovascular (RCV), é fundamental a transferência do paciente para o contexto domiciliário, em particular na fase de manutenção, com a possibilidade de recorrer às novas tecnologias como uma ferramenta de trabalho.

São poucos os estudos que estimam os efeitos a longo prazo após um programa de RCV hospitalar, principalmente na população portuguesa (Magalhães et al., 2013). De acordo com Humphrey et al. (2014), as taxas de participação da RCV apresentam desafios e oportunidades para futuras pesquisas na Europa, juntamente com a avaliação dos resultados a longo prazo da doença cardiovascular. Desta forma, justifica-se a realização de estudos na fase de manutenção da RCV.

Sandesara et al. (2015) defendem que a RCV do futuro deve enfatizar o valor da RCV em termos de resultados de saúde e de custo-eficácia. Desta forma, e tendo em conta que a doença arterial coronária se apresenta como uma patologia prevalente e com grande impacto na sociedade, considerou-se pertinente a realização deste trabalho com o intuito de desenvolver e apresentar estratégias de intervenção que possam minimizar o impacto desta doença, a longo prazo. O mesmo foi realizado apostando na educação e consciencialização dos pacientes quanto à importância de realizar exercício adequado para toda a vida, implementando a fase de manutenção da RCV através da passagem de um programa de exercícios específico a realizar num ambiente familiar e por isso atrativo ao paciente, em contexto domiciliário, com o respetivo acompanhamento, nomeadamente mensagens telefónicas, e-mails, telefonemas e contactos presenciais periódicos, e em particular a realidade virtual. Tratou-se, portanto, de uma aposta na telereabilitação.

Este trabalho evidencia-se assim também pela passagem da RCV do contexto hospitalar, fase de treino, para o contexto domiciliário enquanto promotor da fase de manutenção, tendo sido fundamental elaborar um programa adequado, adaptado e individualizado, atrativo para o paciente para que este se sentisse motivado e seguro a realizá-lo.

A pertinência deste trabalho centra-se ainda na avaliação de algumas variáveis não muito contemplados quando falamos de RCV, tal como o equilíbrio, índice cifótico¹ e função executiva, mas que parecem ser pertinentes para estes indivíduos. Na verdade, o objetivo da fase de manutenção deve ter em conta as alterações fisiológicas que resultam da doença arterial coronária, mas também do processo normal de envelhecimento. É ainda pertinente a promoção e implementação da fase de manutenção tendo em conta a promoção de hábitos de vida saudável, tentando perceber de que forma um programa de exercícios específico em

¹ O índice cifótico é obtido com o *flexicurve*, um instrumento validado para avaliar a cifose torácica.

contexto domiciliário pode ser uma mais-valia na última fase da RCV, não apenas para manutenção da condição clínica. Este programa, centrando-se e promovendo o *empowerment* dos indivíduos, pretendeu estimular a manutenção, a longo prazo, do trabalho desenvolvido na fase de treino, em especial os hábitos de atividade física, apostando num estilo de vida ativo.

Tendo em conta todos os aspetos anteriormente referidos, o presente trabalho teve como **objetivo geral** desenvolver um programa de exercícios específico, desenhado para ser realizado em contexto domiciliário, na fase de manutenção da RCV durante um período de seis meses, baseado nas potencialidades da realidade virtual assim como, analisar os seus efeitos em parâmetros metabólicos, cognitivos, psicossociais, posturais, funcionais e cardiovasculares, em indivíduos com doença arterial coronária.

Assim, para a concretização deste trabalho e tendo por base respetivo objetivo geral, considerou-se a elaboração de **cinco estudos para publicação**, apresentados nos capítulos III a VII (Figura 1), com os respetivos objetivos específicos do trabalho.

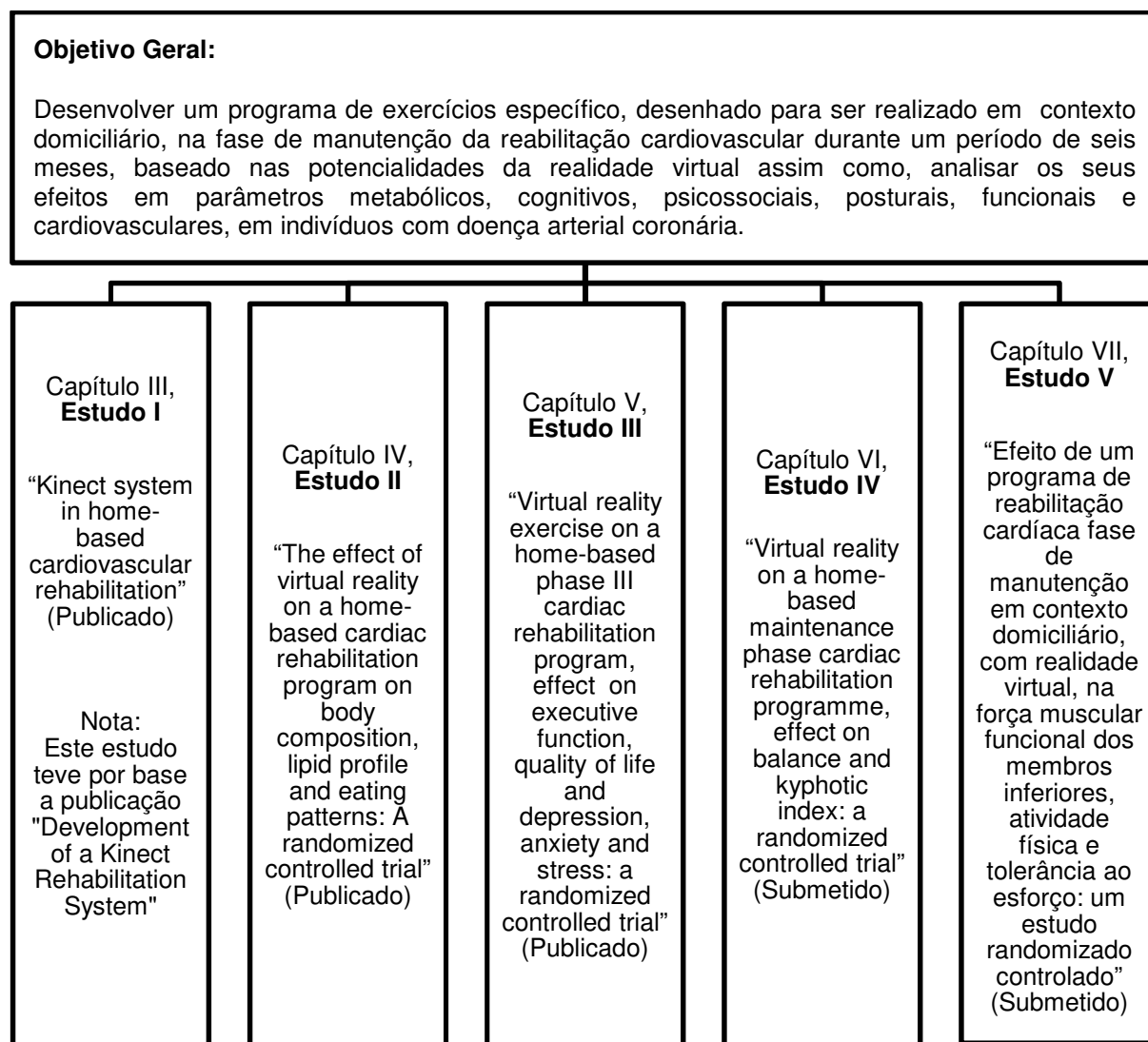


Figura 1. Organização dos estudos.

No capítulo III é apresentado o **estudo I**, “Kinect system in home-based cardiovascular rehabilitation”, que teve como **objetivo apresentar o sistema de realidade virtual** desenvolvido, com recurso ao sensor *Kinect*, e **recolher a opinião dos participantes**, em relação ao uso do *Kinect* na RCV num contexto domiciliário. Neste, foi apresentado o *Kinect* com o respetivo enquadramento enquanto recurso num contexto de RCV, seguida da apresentação dos detalhes clínicos/metodológicos do estudo e do sistema desenvolvido no decorrer do presente estudo, com os devidos detalhes técnicos do *Kinect*, assim como a recolha da opinião dos utilizadores do *Kinect* com recurso a um questionário, dando relevância à componente inovadora, tendo por base a realidade virtual. Este estudo, como já foi referido, teve por base um estudo inicial - Soares et al. (2013), no qual é feita uma primeira e inicial apresentação do sistema desenvolvido e no qual o autor da tese teve um papel ativo.

Os restantes quatro estudos, estudos randomizados controlados, apresentados no capítulo IV a VII, tiveram por base os dois formatos de implementação do programa, realidade virtual e convencional, assim como o grupo controlo, e as diferentes variáveis em estudo que foram divididas e organizadas, pelos estudos, de acordo com a relação entre elas. Nestes, são apresentados os restantes objetivos específicos do trabalho.

Sendo assim, no capítulo IV é apresentado o **estudo II**, “The effect of virtual reality on a home-based cardiac rehabilitation program on body composition, lipid profile and eating patterns: A randomized controlled trial”, que teve como **objetivo** comparar um formato realidade virtual (*Kinect*) com um formato convencional (livrete em papel) e medir as alterações na **composição corporal, perfil lipídico e padrões de consumo alimentar**. As variáveis contempladas foram assim a composição corporal, perfil lipídico e padrões de consumo alimentar. Em concordância com o apresentado no estudo em causa, padrões alimentares errados e um estilo de vida sedentário associado podem contribuir para o ganho de peso (Wadden et al., 2012), e eventualmente levar à obesidade. Com a acumulação de gordura na região abdominal o risco de complicações metabólicas aumenta, sendo que a ocorrência de complicações não depende assim apenas do excesso de peso, mas também da distribuição de gordura (Ibrahim, 2009; Lui et al., 2010; Zaar et al., 2014). Assim, a avaliação antropométrica pode ajudar na avaliação e monitorização do risco cardiovascular. O exercício físico promove melhorias na composição corporal e no perfil lipídico minimizando o risco cardiometabólico (Wadden et al., 2012), sendo que uma alimentação saudável tem também impacto na prevenção e tratamento das doenças cardiovasculares (Gadenz and Benvegnú, 2013).

Antes de falar dos restantes três estudos, e em concordância com o apresentado nos mesmos, convém não esquecer as consequências do normal processo de envelhecimento, assim como as possíveis implicações da doença arterial coronária. O transporte de oxigénio é fulcral para que se mantenha a homeostasia, contudo, na doença arterial coronária a capacidade de o coração bombear sangue pode ser afetada, levando a um decréscimo de oxigénio, sendo que com a falência de oxigénio a nível muscular, o músculo para se manter ativo tem de recorrer à anaerobiose aumentando o ácido láctico e acidose metabólica no seu interior o que dificulta a contração muscular (Dean, 1997; Iglézias, et al., 2001; Peel, 1996).

No **estudo III**, capítulo V, “Virtual reality exercise on a home-based phase III cardiac rehabilitation program, effect on executive function, quality of life and depression, anxiety and stress: a randomized controlled trial”, o **objetivo** foi comparar um formato realidade virtual (*Kinect*), um formato convencional (livrete em papel) e um grupo controlo (GC) (cuidados habituais) e medir as alterações na **função executiva, qualidade de vida, e depressão, ansiedade e stress**. Foram assim contempladas as variáveis função executiva, qualidade de vida, e depressão, ansiedade e *stress*, enquadrando-se as duas últimas variáveis nos quatro estudos randomizados controlados. Em concordância com o apresentado no estudo em causa, a doença arterial coronária, pela possível falência de oxigénio, poderá contribuir para o possível reduzido suprimento cérebro-arterial (Iglézias et al., 2001). Logo, na fase de manutenção, deve-se ter em conta que o possível declínio cognitivo, especificamente da função executiva, pode estar relacionado com a redução da função cardiovascular resultado do envelhecimento (Antunes et al., 2006; Liu-Ambrose et al., 2008), assim como às condicionantes da doença arterial coronária. Contudo, o exercício físico melhora e protege a função cerebral (Antunes et al., 2006; Chapman et al., 2013; Fehine and Trompieri, 2011); com o exercício verifica-se um desenvolvimento da capacidade de aprendizagem motora e capacidade cognitiva (Antunes et al., 2006; Börjesson et al., 2010).

Por outro lado, as doenças cardiovasculares influenciam a qualidade de vida dos que sobrevivem a um evento cardíaco (Dyer et al., 2010), sendo que a presença de sintomas depressivos tem sido associada, cada vez mais, a uma maior morbilidade e mortalidade em doenças cardiovasculares (Schopfer and Forman, 2016). Contudo, os programas de RCV, não apenas pela realização de exercício físico, tem um efeito positivo sobre a qualidade de vida (Blair et al., 2011; Lavie et al., 2009; Macedo and Rosa, 2010), sendo que segundo Dalal et al. (2015), na RCV, as melhorias qualidade de vida e bem-estar psicológico têm vindo a aumentar.

De referir que o funcionamento executivo pode ser repartido em 3 processos básicos: a capacidade de alternância de informação entre múltiplas tarefas - capacidade do individuo alternar entre diferentes tarefas ou até, entre elementos diferentes da mesma tarefa; a

capacidade de atenção seletiva e resolução de conflitos - a monitorização de informação relevante para a tarefa a realizar, capacidade de suprimir uma resposta dominante ou automática, quando esta se mostra desadequada, centrando a atenção no que realmente se pretende e inibindo outra informação concorrente (Miyake et al., 2000; Strauss et al., 2006); e a memória de trabalho - o processo que permite conservar a informação que é precisa no momento e recordá-la a curto-prazo e atualizar substituindo a informação antiga e não relevante pela mais recente e relevante (Miller, 2013; Miyake et al., 2000).

No **estudo IV**, “Virtual reality on a home-based maintenance phase cardiac rehabilitation programme, effect on balance and kyphotic index: a randomized controlled trial”, apresentado no capítulo VI, o **objetivo** foi comparar um formato realidade virtual (*Kinect*), um formato convencional (livrete em papel) e um GC (cuidados habituais) e medir as alterações no **equilíbrio e índice cifótico**. O equilíbrio, estático e dinâmico, e índice cifótico foram assim as variáveis contempladas. Em concordância com o apresentado no estudo em causa, o equilíbrio refere-se à habilidade de manter o centro de massa sobre a base de apoio sendo necessário para manter uma posição no espaço ou movimentar-se de forma controlada e coordenada (Kisner and Colby, 2009). O controlo postural obtém-se por comandos centrais a motoneurónios inferiores, sendo que a estimulação central é ajustada ao contexto ambiental por estímulos sensoriais (Lundy-Ekman, 2008). A doença arterial coronária, em paralelo com o normal processo de envelhecimento, pela possível falência de oxigénio a nível muscular, ao prejudicar o trabalho muscular, o controlo postural e a manutenção de equilíbrio poderão sair prejudicados (Dean, 1997; Iglézias et al., 2001; Tinetti et al., 1988; Peel, 1996).

Por outro lado, o aumento da curvatura torácica, e assim do índice cifótico, leva a uma deslocação anterior do centro de massa sendo mais difícil mantê-lo no interior da base de suporte do indivíduo (Bandeira et al., 2010; Katzman et al., 2010). Contudo, o aumento da curvatura torácica acarreta não só alterações posturais que levam a alterações de equilíbrio que potenciam o risco de queda, mas também a alterações no transporte de oxigénio, aumentando o trabalho respiratório (Dean, 1997; Hinman, 2004; Peel, 1996).

Por fim, no **estudo V**, “Efeito de um programa de reabilitação cardíaca fase de manutenção em contexto domiciliário, com realidade virtual, na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, atividade física e tolerância ao esforço: um estudo randomizado controlado” apresentado no capítulo VII, o **objetivo** foi comparar um formato realidade virtual (*Kinect*), um formato convencional (livrete em papel) e um GC (cuidados habituais) e medir as alterações na **força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, atividade física: volume total de atividade e perfil de intensidade desta, e tolerância ao esforço estimada em equivalentes metabólicos (MET), tempo de prova e duplo produto máximo**. As variáveis

contempladas foram assim a força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, atividade física e tolerância ao esforço. Em concordância com o apresentado no estudo em causa, nos portadores de doença cardíaca é notória a diminuição da normal tolerância ao esforço; estes apresentam um menor consumo máximo de oxigénio e consequentemente menor tolerância ao esforço comparativamente com indivíduos saudáveis (Lavie et al., 2009; Pescatello et al., 2014), podendo esse menor consumo máximo de oxigénio e possível falência de oxigénio a nível muscular na doença arterial coronária, pela contração muscular, repercutir-se na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores. No seguimento, a diminuição do nível de atividade física é também deveras importante, uma vez que tem um importante impacto no desencadeamento da diminuição da capacidade funcional (Yang and Hsu, 2010). A RCV e, consequentemente promoção de atividade física, promove melhorias na capacidade de exercício (Dalal et al., 2015).

Assim, com a elaboração destes quatro estudos randomizados controlados, capítulo IV a VII, foram avaliados parâmetros metabólicos, cognitivos, psicossociais, posturais, funcionais e cardiovasculares.

Estes apresentam uma metodologia semelhante, concordante com a apresentada no estudo I (capítulo III), em primeiro lugar apresentada detalhadamente no estudo II (capítulo IV) e posteriormente complementada nos estudos III, IV e V (capítulo V a VII).

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CAPÍTULO III

**Kinect system in home-based
cardiovascular rehabilitation**

(Estudo I)

Estudo I

Original Article

Institution of
**MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**



Kinect system in home-based cardiovascular rehabilitation

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Abstract

Cardiovascular diseases lead to a high consumption of financial resources. An important part of the recovery process is the cardiovascular rehabilitation. This study aimed to present a new cardiovascular rehabilitation system to 11 outpatients with coronary artery disease from a Hospital in Porto, Portugal, later collecting their opinions. This system is based on a virtual reality game system, using the Kinect sensor while performing an exercise protocol which is integrated in a home-based cardiovascular rehabilitation programme, with a duration of 6 months and at the maintenance phase. The participants responded to a questionnaire asking for their opinion about the system. The results demonstrated that 91% of the participants (n=10) enjoyed the artwork, while 100% (n=11) agreed on the importance and usefulness of the automatic counting of the number of repetitions, moreover 64% (n=7) reported motivation to continue performing the programme after the end of the study, and 100% (n=11) recognized Kinect as an instrument with potential to be an asset in cardiovascular rehabilitation. Criticisms included limitations in motion capture and gesture recognition, 91% (n=10), and the lack of home space, 27% (n=3). According to the participants' opinions, the Kinect has the potential to be used in cardiovascular rehabilitation; however, several technical details require improvement, particularly regarding the motion capture and gesture recognition.

Keywords

Kinect, cardiovascular rehabilitation, virtual reality

Introduction

Cardiovascular diseases, such as coronary artery disease, lead the mortality and morbidity rates in Portugal, acquiring a great importance in terms of public health.¹ An estimated 75%-90% incidence of coronary artery disease in a variety of populations is explained by previous exposure to risk factors, such as poor dietary habits, physical inactivity, and cigarette smoking.² Cardiorespiratory fitness and physical activity continue to decline globally,³ hence the need of healthcare systems to take an important and active role in the promotion of physical activity.^{3,4} According to Carlson et al.,⁵ increasing adults' physical activity up to the current recommendations may reduce United States healthcare expenditures.

Regular rehabilitation exercise in supervised programmes can treat, reduce, or even avoid the incidence of coronary artery disease.⁶ Cardiovascular rehabilitation (CVR) programme offer a multidisciplinary approach, focusing on exercise as their main component. This rehabilitation is seen as a long-term procedure, aimed at informing the patient of his pathology, educate him on the ways to prevent and control cardiovascular risk factors, prescribe him exercises and

improve his capacity and quality of life,^{1,7} as well as his prognosis by adopting healthy lifestyles.⁸ CVR programmes should be seen as a continuum evolution through phases to the long-term follow-up period. The maintenance phase, the last one of CVR, aims to preserve the long-term capacities and performance developed in the previous phases, based on the empowerment of the individuals.⁹

In Europe, while mortality rates have been decreasing in most countries, hospital discharge rates for cardiovascular patients have been stable, increasing the amount of candidates eligible to CVR.¹⁰ However, despite the existence of strong evidence supporting the role of CVR in the secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases, this procedure remains vastly underused due to significant barriers,² with low participation rates.¹¹ One of the main limitations is the accessibility, since most CVR programmes are limited to hospitals in large urban areas.¹²⁻¹⁴

Additionally, thinking in the long term – during the maintenance phase, after the end of CVR programmes delivered by the healthcare systems, the outpatients may lack the self-discipline to continue with the rehabilitation exercises, or have no financial resources to integrate a private CVR programme.

Participation rates in CVR represent one of several challenges and opportunities for further research in Europe.¹⁰ One way to fight some causes of low adherence is to implement home-based CVR programmes.¹⁵ Rehabilitation therapists must plan new exercise regimens and prescribe them according to the rehabilitation guidelines.⁶ When comparing home rehabilitation with comprehensive hospital-based care, there seems to be little or no difference between both as far as the physical activity outcomes are concerned. Home-based rehabilitation is associated with improvements in physical activity levels, from an improved 6 min walk test, as well as increase in the estimated VO₂, daily physical activity index, and improved functional capacity in patients with heart failure.¹² Home-based CVR interventions are equally if not more cost-effective than conventional centre-based programmes.² However, according to Clark et al.,¹⁶ only the community-based and telehealth-based individualized and multifactorial models of CVR were associated with improvements in the cardiovascular disease risk factor profile similar to those with a traditional hospital-based approach.

Regarding the use of innovative strategies to implement CVR, new delivery models must be adopted, especially for patients at low or low-to-moderate risk.² An emerging model to deliver CVR is through technology. In Canada, for example, a telehealth/Internet-based care system has been developed.¹⁷ The resort to technology, such as the Internet and mobile phones, has been suggested as a potential solution.¹⁵

Virtual exercise programmes are becoming increasingly popular. Studies and projects using the Microsoft Kinect in rehabilitation are starting to appear as well.¹⁸ New rehabilitation tools

based on virtual reality and video games are being developed and have recently gained significant interest in the physical therapy arena.¹⁹ Motion sensors and, in particular, entertainment-oriented ones are useful as physical rehabilitation tools.²⁰ Motivation is an important factor in patient adherence to therapeutic programmes, and technology is being used to increase patient motivation, compliance, and accuracy of movement.¹⁸

Kinect is a sensor box initially developed for the Xbox games console, inexpensive, and easy to install, turning Microsoft's real-time motion-capturing technology into a possible success in rehabilitation.¹⁹ The proposed system for physical rehabilitation, called "KineRehab", reduces staff intervention and enhances the participants' motivation to adhere to physical rehabilitation. This achievement improves a sense of self-determination, a feeling of independence, and improves the quality of life.²⁰ Moreover, rehabilitation games should be designed in cooperation with physical therapists in order to reach the rehabilitation goal.

Taking into account all these assumptions, it becomes pertinent to use new technologies as working tools, as the Kinect, and to assess the end user's point of view for a constructive perspective, to determine the pros and cons of using the Kinect technology, as well as its real effectiveness and utility. This study was therefore based on the implementation of a homebased exercise programme using the Kinect sensor, to be performed during 6months and at the maintenance phase of CVR, by outpatients with coronary artery disease. It aimed to present the developed system and to collect the opinions of the participants regarding the use of Kinect in CVR at a home-based context.

Methods

For this study, we used a Kinect virtual game - *RehabPlay* – developed by Soares et al.²¹ in the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto. The sample was obtained in the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit of *Centro Hospitalar do Porto* (Porto Healthcare Centre in Portugal) at the end of the hospital-based CVR programme. Four subjects were excluded throughout the study: one for withdrawal, one for emigration and two for decision to join a gym. The final sample was composed of 11 outpatients.

As inclusion criteria, participants ought to have performed and completed the training phase of CVR and present a diagnosed and stabilized coronary artery disease, with no unstable angina and complex ventricular arrhythmias^{22–25} and a final diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction or stable angina *pectoris*; they could be of both sexes and aged between 40 and 75 years. They were required to own a computer with at least Microsoft Windows 7, where Kinect was going to be installed. Exclusion criteria included heart surgery; individuals who did not complete their stress test due to maximum fatigue; pregnant women, or planning to get pregnant; individuals stratified as cardiovascular high risk^{22,24,25} according to Pescatello et al.,²⁶

and individuals with pacemakers or severe neurological, musculoskeletal, or respiratory diseases and uncompensated metabolic disorders or reported dementia,^{24–26} cardiomyopathies, and history of cardiorespiratory arrest not associated with acute myocardial infarction or cardiac procedures. They also excluded individuals with significant visual²⁴ and auditory deficits not compensated, illiterate and/or with no knowledge of Portuguese. Individuals who joined or were planning to join gyms or other regular exercise programmes during the study were also excluded.

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of *Centro Hospitalar do Porto* –Teaching, Coaching and Research Department – N/REF.^a 212/12 (165-DEFI/157-CES) and by the Ethics Committee of the Health School, Polytechnic Institute of Porto – 1489/2012. The confidentiality of the data provided was assured to all individuals, as well as their anonymity. All participants signed an informed consent form according to the moulds of the ‘Declaration of Helsinki’ (World Medical Association).

A programme of specific exercises was implemented using this rehabilitation system, for a 6-months period,^{24,25} at the maintenance phase of CVR and in a home context, immediately after the termination of the hospital-based CVR. The participants performed the CVR programme independently and individually at home, with distant supervision. Telephone contacts were scheduled to weeks 4, 10 and 22, as well as home visits or in-person meetings in a way to track performances and subsequently re-evaluate and adjust the exercises in weeks 6 and 18.^{24,25} Every week, participants received e-mails and / or text messages reminding them about the importance of adhering to the programme. A ‘Exercise Diary’ was handed to the participants, where they were expected to register, during the sessions, the values of the heart rate, Borg rating and eventual comments. This attested the adherence of participants to the programme.

The programme consisted of three training sessions per week.²⁷ The exercise protocol was adapted to the characteristics of the home context in the form of a self-monitoring system, and presented two progressive levels of intensity, having the second level been established after 3 months. The exercise protocol fulfilled the principles of overload, specificity and reversibility and was performed at a moderate intensity, using data from the stress test, maximal heart rate, the *Karvonen* formula, at 65% of the heart rate reserve evaluated with a heart monitor, progressing to 70%.^{26,28} The exercise progression was performed by increasing the number of repetitions, series, and/or by modifying the exercise.

The intensity of the exercises and the number of repetitions were also monitored with the Borg scale, a subjective scale to measure the effort applied during the exercise (6-20), with a range between 12 and 13.^{25,26,28}

The exercise protocol (presented in Table 1), proposed by a certified expert in physical therapy with 5 years of experience in the field and adapted from Noites et al.,²⁹ comprised 10 exercises:

a warm up exercise, seven exercises of conditioning workout aimed at enhancing muscular endurance and/or strength, and two exercises to increase limb flexibility. Additionally, exercises 1, 4, 6 and 7 were also intended to improve balance, and exercises 5 and progression of exercise 3 were aimed at improving the thoracic curve.

The teaching and description of the exercise protocol and the instructions on how to use Kinect were provided previously by the researchers during three in-person sessions. The researchers taught and corrected the participant until the content of the prescribed exercise protocol and the use of Kinect was fully understood without errors.^{20,24,25} The researchers installed the system in the participants' homes. After 3 months there was a reassessment, and the second level was introduced.

The *Kinect-RehabPlay* project relies on software to monitor and evaluate the rehabilitation exercises. The exercises are performed by the user and captured by the Kinect sensor, providing him or her with real-time visual feedback about the given challenge. The system is based on a human interaction interface with a virtual reality environment controlled by a Kinect sensor and a software package.²¹ The Kinect sensor was connected to a computer in the home of each participant.

The system offers visual and audio instructions and includes a virtual physical therapist as an avatar that performs the exercise and provides indications on the quality of their execution. The patient is also represented as a second avatar, which interactively follows the physical therapist.²¹ The software uses the Microsoft Kinetic to track individual movement of the upper and lower limbs and making a match with a predefined pattern. A scale factor is used to adjust the height/distance of the user in order to maintain approximately the same size on the screen. The playing speed is also adjusted in real time, in order to adapt the movements of the virtual physical therapist to the physical ability of the patient. This feature allowed to monitor the number of repetitions for each exercise, according to the pre-calculated value, and set it to the individual exercise profile. The same was referenced in the programme along with the respective exercise.

Six months after the beginning of the programme, the participants were asked to fill in a questionnaire, developed by the research team, in order to collect their opinion regarding the use of Kinect. In yes/no questions, they were asked if they had enjoyed the artwork, if they considered the automatic counting of the number of repetitions to be important and useful, if they had motivation to continue performing the programme after the end of the study, and if they thought that Kinetic was an instrument with potential to be an asset in CVR. They were also requested to refer, whenever appropriate, their main criticisms to the use of Kinect.

Table I. Presentation of the exercise protocol.

Session phase		Exercise	Description
Warm up 10 min		1- Marching in place	Hip flexion, below the waist level, with flexion of the contralateral glenohumeral joint, always in the same place. After 3 months perform hip flexion up to the waist level.
Workout	Strength 20–25 min (to each individual repetitions calculated by 65–70% of the heart rate reserve)	2- Squats	With feet shoulder width apart, perform knee flexion, without going over the toes, with bilateral flexion of the glenohumeral joint to 90°. After 3 months perform two series with a 1-min break.
		3- Crossing	Keep marching in place throughout the exercise; perform the first proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation diagonal for bilateral upper limb flexion (glenohumeral flexion, adduction and external rotation). After 3 months perform two series with a 1-min break the second proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation diagonal for bilateral upper limb flexion (glenohumeral flexion, abduction and external rotation).
		4 - Ankle movement	Dorsiflexion/plantar flexion of the ankles while standing. After 3 months perform two series with a 1-min break.
		5 - Backward movements of the arms	Keep marching in place throughout the exercise; perform extension, abduction and external rotation of the glenohumeral for the complete range. At the end of the movement forcefully increase range of movement 10 times. After 3 months perform two series with a 1-min break.
	Endurance 35–45 min (to each individual repetitions calculated by 65–70% of the heart rate reserve)	6 - Sit and stand	Sitting in a chair with the upper limbs crossed over the chest. Sitting should be performed in a controlled movement. After 3 months down seat height.
		7 - Step forward, sideways and backwards	Perform forward and backward half-step with bilateral upper limb flexion and sideways half-step with bilateral upper limb abduction and external rotation. After 3 months perform two series with a 1-min break.
		8 - Walk (30 min in)	After 3 months, if possible, increase to 60 min.
		9 - Calf muscle stretching 10 - Anterior forearm muscle stretching	Stretch the triceps surae 4 repetitions/ maintain 15 s Stretch the wrist flexors 4 repetitions/ maintain 15 s
Stretching 6 min			

Description of the architecture

The *Kinect-RehabPlay* system is composed of three modules: the virtual reality environment, the Kinect sensor, and the monitoring software package (Figure 1). The Kinect sensor serves as an input to the virtual reality environment, which is monitored by the monitoring software package.²¹

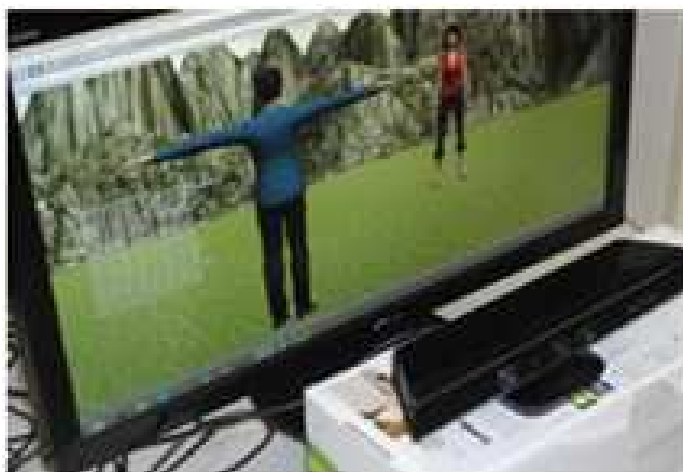


Figure 1. The *Kinect-RehabPlay* system.

The following paragraphs contain a brief explanation about each one of the modules.

- a) *Virtual reality environment.* Since the project aimed to develop a game for rehabilitation purposes, the virtual environment in which it takes place is an important part of the *Kinect-RehabPlay* system. Additionally, the exercises to be performed are presented in a graphical form, not only to encourage the user to continue with the exercises but also to demonstrate how to perform them, so that he or she does not —hurt himself or herself.²¹ A snapshot of the game's menu is showed in Figure 2, and three game settings are illustrated in Figure 3(a)-(c). The settings feature two avatars, one representing the physical therapist (the one on the right) and the other representing the user, by means of the Kinect sensor.
- b) *Kinect sensor.* Acting as the only motion input to the system, the Kinect sensor is of extreme importance. It allows to interpret the rehabilitation movements performed by the user, to control the in-game avatar and it also delivers part of the data to the monitoring software package.²¹
- c) *Monitoring software package.* This module acts mainly as a monitor to the virtual reality environment, but it can also act on it, generating notices (regarding incorrect positioning by the user) or increasing/decreasing the game's level of difficulty according to the movements performed by the user.²¹



Figure 2. Game menu (gender and scenery selection).



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 3. Game settings (a) mountain scenery, (b) Paris scenery, and (c) beach scenery.

The checking of whether the user is performing the movements as he or she should, without injuring himself or herself, is done by means of a joint angle control provided by the Kinect sensor, with a comparison with the movements previously recorded by the physical therapist.²¹ Figure 4 shows the interaction between the user and the *Kinect-RehabPlay* system, in the home of one of the participants.



Figure 4. System interaction in a real context.

Results

All the participants in this study were men ($n=11$), with a mean age of 55years, and 64% of them ($n=7$) were employed. At the beginning of the study 55% of the participants ($n=6$) were diagnosed with acute coronary syndrome without ST segment elevation and 45% ($n=5$) with acute coronary syndrome with ST segment elevation. Dyslipidaemia, 91% ($n=10$), hypertension, 45% ($n=5$), and tobacco, 45% ($n=5$), were the main cardiovascular risk factors. With regard to cardiovascular risk, 64% ($n=7$) had low risk and 36% ($n=4$) had moderate risk.²⁶ The rate of adherence to the CVR programme, during the 6months of the study/programme, taking into account the 3weekly sessions, ranged between 56% and 100% with an average percentage of 77%. The adherence in the first 3months was around 82%, while in the final 3 months decreased to 70% representing, even so, a good adherence to the Kinect-RehabPlay sytem.^{29,30}

According to the questionnaire, 91% of the participants ($n=10$) enjoyed the artwork, 100% ($n=11$) agreed with the importance and usefulness of the automatic counting of the number of

repetitions, 64% (n=7) reported motivation to continue performing the programme after the end of the study, and 100% (n=11) were unanimous in recognizing Kinetic as an instrument with potential to be an asset in CVR. The main criticism pointed to Kinect was related to the motion capture and gesture recognition, 91% (n=10), being difficult to synchronize the movement with the instructor avatar, making the exercise protocol more time-consuming. Another criticism, 27% (n=3), is related to difficulties in finding enough space at home and the necessity of organizing the home space in order to make the programme feasible.

The latter topics are corroborated by the statements of some participants:

...It's easy to perform, I just needed to follow the movements of the avatar representing the physical therapist, it is very easy, it's intuitive, completely intuitive...

...I think this is much better than doing exercises from a book ...

...I do recommend it. I would have stopped exercising some time ago if it wasn't for this system

...

...I strongly recommend this type of exercises and, as I said, I am willing to continue to do it, even after the termination of the 6 month period.

Discussion

CVR needs significant improvements in order to provide cost-effective, patient-centred and comprehensive secondary cardiovascular diseases prevention.²

The current system was designed to integrate home-based rehabilitation by assisting one's individual exercises. The Kinect tool, if properly used, can be an important asset in home-based CVR. Overall, the feedback of the participants to the system was positive; however, there are still some improvements to be made, which are directly related to Kinect.

The costs associated with the access to CVR programmes are often beyond the means of most people; therefore, the idea of encouraging individuals to perform a relatively low-cost exercise programme at home is appealing, especially if the same programme is accomplished with the use of new technologies.¹⁸ Since the National Health Service normally does not cover the maintenance phase, costs such as user fees or gym enrolment fees, not to mention travel expenses, are greater than the cost of purchasing the Kinect, which is available for about 150€. The goal of this project is therefore to create a low-cost viable alternative.

Performing exercise in a home context can present some limitations, especially in what concerns to the exercise adherence. We must mention that, in some cases, the presence of the therapist, as well as the distance from home distractions, can make the clinical setting a more desirable option.¹⁸ Adherence to home-based exercise rehabilitation remains low. Among the possible causes for this is the fact that patients are not monitored, thus they cannot be

certain that they are performing the exercise in a correct and accurate manner, and they receive no feedback.³¹ Nevertheless, in this study, the good adherence showed that home-based care might benefit from the use of Kinect as an aid in the accomplishment of a CVR programme after hospital discharge. The development of intuitive, personalized home-based exercise monitoring systems can stimulate exercise adherence through a system that provides real-time feedback.

There are few studies exploring rehabilitation at home with this technology. Pirovano et al.³² aimed to develop a low-cost game-oriented platform that would allow patients with several clinical conditions and already discharged from the hospital to continue intensive rehabilitation at home under remote monitoring by the hospital. By continuously monitoring the patient's movement, the game system can react instantly with direct and clear feedback and thus avoiding the appearance of over-compensatory or erroneous movements during the exercise, which would lead to the failure of the rehabilitation programme. The role of the therapist is still fundamental, since he has to prescribe the most appropriate rehabilitation programmes for each patient, considering his health condition and his progression.³² All these aspects were taken into consideration in our study.

Our study is supported by Lu et al.,⁶ whose research describes how a motion-sensing enabled personalized exercise system for CVR can lead cardiac outpatients to improve their health throughout a series of effective personalized rehabilitation exercises, ultimately making home-based CVR more effective and efficient. Moreover, the experimental system represents a unique merger between the rehabilitation sector, game industry, and wearable sensor manufacturers with a strong potential impact.⁶ Evidence shows that the *Kinect-RehabPlay* system can be a viable rehabilitation tool which also cuts personal impediments to the practice of physical activity.²⁰

Participation in a CVR programme after myocardial infarction reduces the risk of long-term hospital readmission by 25% and death by 42%. Patients should be educated about the positive impact of CVR participation on the long-term outcomes after myocardial infarction.¹¹ Most of the participants in this study said they were motivated to continue performing the programme after the end of the study; they also mentioned that the system increased their motivation to participate in rehabilitation, as reported in a study carried out by Chang et al.²⁰ which assessed the effectiveness of the 'KineRehab' system for motivating adherence to physical rehabilitation.

Motivation to follow through with therapeutic instructions varies and is often limited. Tracking patients' performance and progress in this situation may serve as an effective, additional factor which motivates the patients to complete the exercises with the frequency recommended by the therapist.¹⁸ The association between the fields of physical rehabilitation and serious games is fundamental for the development of home-based rehabilitation system solutions, since new

technologies contribute to an increase in innovative intervention strategies that may contribute to greater motivation and predisposition of individuals for their rehabilitation process.¹⁸ Therefore, virtual reality-based CVR programmes may be a viable alternative. The use of technology to deliver healthcare has been suggested as a potential solution for long-distance patients.²¹ It is important to continue to invest on this type of technology as a complement to various phases of the rehabilitation process, in order to improve participation rates and prevent relapses, being this study a contribution to that matter.

According to Sandesara et al.,² future CVR must consist of a patient-centred and comprehensive programme of secondary prevention delivered through a variety of easily accessible care models that emphasize the value of CVR in what concerns to healthcare outcomes and cost-effectiveness relationship.

The limitations of this study are the same limitations inherent to Kinect, which are linked to motion capture and gesture recognition, and which hindered the implementation of the protocol. The small number of participants also does not allow to extrapolate the results. Further studies should focus on some of the technical deficits of Kinect and use *Kinect-RehabPlay* system in other types of populations and eventually in younger age groups, as well as the development of more motivation strategies.

This study shows that *Kinect-RehabPlay* system can be a useful tool in the implementation of a CVR programme, avoiding some of the limitations associated with the home care context, taking into account the positive feedback by the participants. However, some improvements are still necessary, particularly regarding the motion capture and gesture recognition, technology aspects directly related to Kinect, being also necessary to apply this instrument on a larger sample.

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CAPÍTULO IV

The effect of virtual reality on a home-based cardiac rehabilitation program on body composition, lipid profile and eating patterns: A randomized controlled trial

(Estudo II)

Estudo II



Research paper

The effect of virtual reality on a home-based cardiac rehabilitation program on body composition, lipid profile and eating patterns: A randomized controlled trial[☆]



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Abstract

Introduction: Subjects with cardiovascular diseases are referred to cardiac rehabilitation, with a possibility of using virtual reality environments. The study aimed to analyze the effect of a home-based specific exercise program, maintenance phase, with a six months period, performed in a virtual reality (Kinect) or conventional (booklet) environment, on the body composition, eating patterns and lipid profile of subjects with coronary artery disease.

Methods: A randomized controlled trial was conducted with subjects from a hospital in Porto, Portugal. Subjects were randomly assigned to either intervention group 1 (n=11), whose program encompassed the use of Kinect; or intervention group 2, a booklet (n=11); or a control group, only receiving education concerning cardiovascular risk factors (n=11) during 6 months. Beyond the baseline, at 3 and 6 months the body composition was assessed with a bioimpedance scale and a tape-measure, eating patterns with the semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire and three months later, the lipid profile with laboratory tests. Descriptive and inferential statistical measures were used with a significance level of 0.05.

Results: The intervention group 1 revealed significant improvements in the waist-to-hip ratio after 6 months ($p=0.033$) and, between the baseline and third month, when compared with the control group ($p=0.041$). The intervention group 1 also decreased their ingestion of total fat ($p=0.032$) after six months and increased the high-density lipoprotein cholesterol ($p=0.017$) 3 months after the program's conclusion.

Conclusions: The virtual reality format had a positive influence on body composition, specifically on the waist-to-hip ratio, in the first three months.

Keywords

Cardiac rehabilitation; Virtual Reality; Body composition; Eating patterns; Lipid profile; Randomised controlled trial

1. Introduction

Cardiovascular diseases are still the main cause of death in Europe, with coronary artery disease responsible for nearly 20% of the annual deaths [1]. These subjects are usually referred to cardiac rehabilitation (CR) programs. A multidisciplinary CR program is an essential component of cardiovascular diseases prevention and management [2], as the case of the coronary artery disease, that aims to optimize the reduction of cardiovascular risk, facilitate the adoption and adherence to healthy behaviors, reduce disability, promote an active lifestyle [3] and so improve the functional capacity and quality of life [4].

Obesity is a controllable risk factor and able to influence many other factors, so anthropometric assessments and the identification of excess weight may help to identify and provide early control of cardiovascular risk. The occurrence of heart-related complications is linked not only to the excess weight, but also to fat distribution, since the accumulation of fat in the abdominal region increases the risk of developing metabolic disorders associated with heart disease, and visceral fat seems to have great influence on metabolic risk [5, 6]. An unhealthy diet and a sedentary lifestyle might have an impact on energy balance and contribute to put on weight [7]. Several eating patterns can influence the risk of developing coronary artery disease, as well as its main risk factors [8].

CR programs are linked to improvements in obesity indexes and on the levels of plasma lipids (lipid profile) [9,10]. Regular physical activity can contribute to disrupt the vicious circle between inactivity and excess weight, leading to improvements in the body composition and lipid profile, and reducing the cardiometabolic risk [7]. However, despite the known benefits of CR, participation and adherence are still lower than what practitioners aim for, due to significant barriers [2,9]. Several barriers to CR still exist in hospital settings, such as long distances and uneasy access [9].

Home-based CR programs are one way to fight some causes of low adherence [11]. Appropriately prescribed home-based programs have been reported to be acceptably safe and effective when compared with conventional, medically supervised group programs [2]. The implementation of home-based programs has been increasingly suggested, as a way to lessen the dropout rates and promote the setup of the maintenance phase (the last phase of CR) [12], that focuses on long-term prevention, representing the long-term outpatient supervision of patient compliance to prescribed lifestyle [13]. Nevertheless, according to Clark et al. [14], only the community and telehealth based individualized, multifactorial models were associated with improvements in the risk profile for cardiovascular diseases similar to hospital-based programs.

In the study of Brubaker et al. [15] the data indicate that the home-based program, maintenance phase, was as effective as the hospital-based CR program at improving/maintaining blood lipids, and body weight/composition. These authors suggested that a home-based program with a maintenance component could be offered as a low-cost alternative to hospital-based programs. This was based on similar success being achieved in the group that had no contact with the CR program. This was likely to be due to their prior experience in CR program and knowledge of follow-up testing [15]. According to Pinto et al. [16], in a group of participants that received a home-based intervention (a six month program of exercise counseling after the training phase of CR delivered via telephone, print materials and feedback reports) and a contact control group, this intervention, in their patient population,

could help maintain exercise. In addition it prevents regression and increased motivational readiness for exercise, and improve physical functioning.

Nowadays, there are still a lack of long-term studies focusing on new approaches to home-based CR however, resorting to technology has been suggested as a potential tool [11]. In this context, new technologies might contribute to increasing the amount of innovative intervention strategies, as well as the levels of motivation and predisposition of patients [17]. There has been interest in the use of virtual reality technology for developing tools for rehabilitation as a physical therapy. The idea of virtual reality-based rehabilitation is to use sensing devices [18]. Industrial motion sensors and, in particular, entertainment oriented ones are useful as physical rehabilitation tools. One of the possible resources is the Microsoft Kinect that is a webcam-style add-on peripheral intended for the Xbox 360 game console [19] and is composed of several sensors that is able to act as a tracking device [20]. Microsoft Kinect has a video camera, along with a depth sensor (which allows to measure the distance between an object and the Kinect) [21], providing a full-body 3D motion capture and joint tracking capabilities without markers or handheld controllers [18]. Using the Kinect, the virtual exercise programs, are becoming increasingly popular in rehabilitation [17].

So, the goal of this study was to analyze the effect of a specific exercise program which was designed to be performed at home during the maintenance phase of CR, over a six-month period. The study compared a virtual reality format (Kinect) to a conventional format (booklet) and measured changes in body composition, lipid profile and eating patterns, for subjects with coronary artery disease.

2. Methods

2.1. Sample

The sample for this randomized controlled trial, using a three arm, parallel group over 23 months, was obtained from the *Centro Hospitalar do Porto* (Porto Healthcare Center in Portugal). The target population was composed of subjects who had just completed the training phase of CR at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit and having been individually invited to participate in this study. The enrollment and assignment was conducted by the research coordinator, with the support of the responsible of the Unit, according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Eligible subjects were men and women, aged between 40 and 75 years, with coronary artery disease, diagnosed and stabilized, with no unstable angina and complex ventricular arrhythmias [22-25] with or without percutaneous coronary intervention and a final diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction or stable angina *pectoris*, that completed training phase of CR

at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit; and had access to a computer with Microsoft Windows 7 (minimum). The exclusion criteria included heart surgery, non-completed stress test due to maximum fatigue, pregnancy or planning to get pregnant, cardiovascular high risk [22, 24, 25] according to Pescatello et al. [26], pacemaker, severe neurological, musculoskeletal or pulmonary diseases, and uncompensated metabolic disorders, reported dementia [24-26], cardiomyopathies and previous cardiorespiratory arrest non-associated with acute myocardial infarction or heart procedures. Additionally, those who had significant and uncompensated visual [24] and auditory deficits, those who were uneducated and/or with no fluency in Portuguese and those who had attended or planned to attend gym or regular physical exercise programs were excluded.

The flow diagram is presented in Fig. 1. The participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups: Intervention group 1 (IG1) – allocated to a home-based CR program, using a computer and Kinect (virtual reality format) (n=15); Intervention group 2 (IG2) – allocated to a home-based CR program using a paper booklet (conventional format) (n=15); and a Control group (CG), only subjected to education regarding the cardiovascular risk factors (n=16). A randomization by blocks was used, and an allocation sequence based on a fixed block size of 3 was generated with a computer random number generator by an investigator not involved in the trial.

Throughout the follow-up 4 subjects were excluded from IG1 and from IG2, and 5 from CG. Therefore, the final sample was composed of 33 subjects: IG1 n=11, IG2 n=11 and CG n=11.

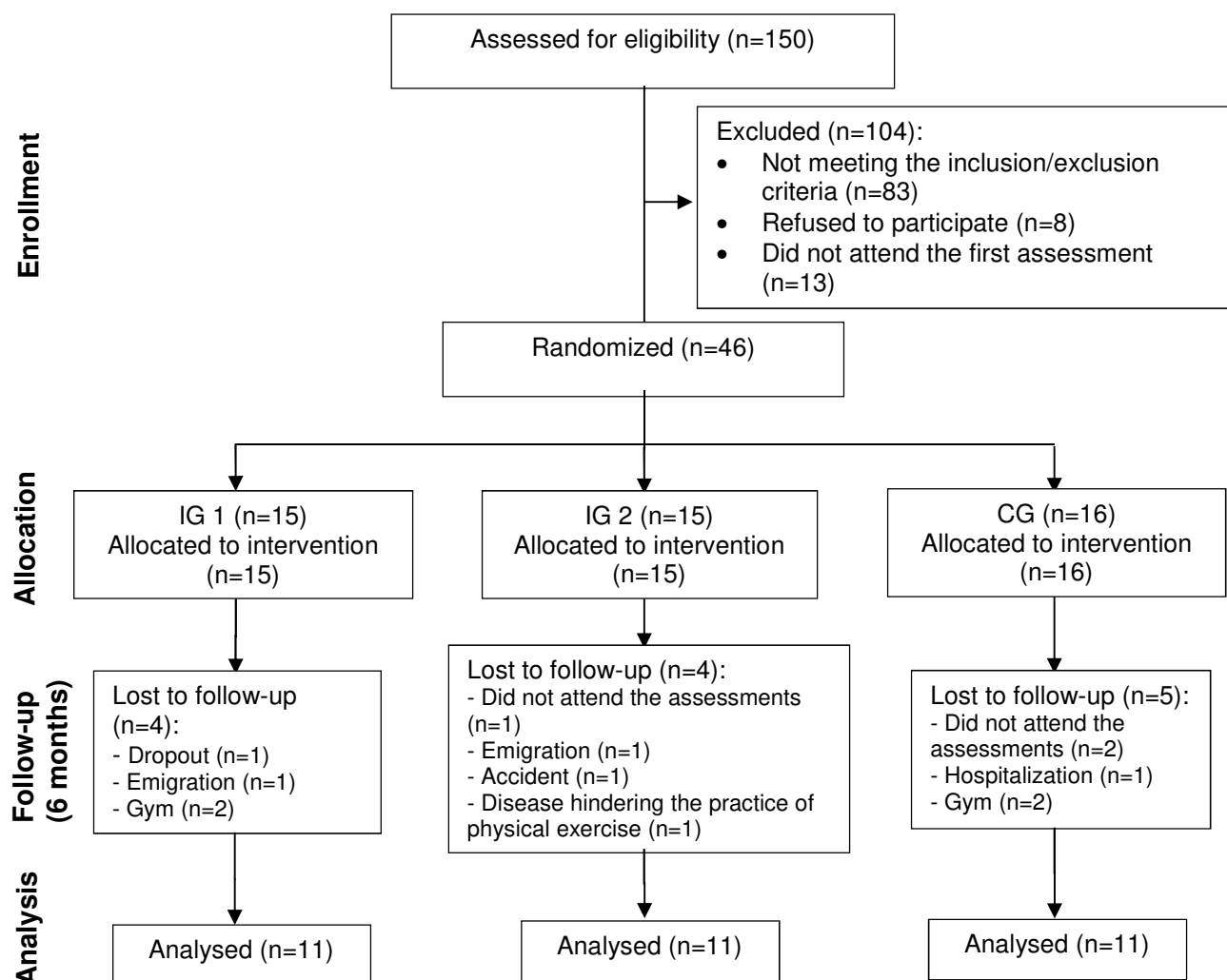


Fig. 1. Flow diagram patients (Assessed for eligibility n=150). CG, Control Group; IG1, Intervention Group 1; IG2, Intervention Group 2.

2.2. Instruments and Procedures

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the *Centro Hospitalar do Porto* –Teaching, Coaching and Research Department – N/REF.^a 212/12 (165-DEFI/157-CES) and by the Ethics Committee of the Health School, Polytechnic Institute of Porto – 1489/2012. All procedures were conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki and the study is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT02753829). Data collection took place at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit and the Health School of Porto.

A pilot study was conducted among 10 subjects whose characteristics resembled the ones from the target population, with the aim of assessing the feasibility of the exercises, the reliability of the instruments and to improve the time management of data collections. The assessment of the study encompassed four moments: a baseline/initial moment (M0), right after the termination of the training phase and before the beginning of the program; an

intermediate moment (M1), three months after the beginning of the program; a final moment (M2), six months after the beginning of the program; and a moment nearly three months after the conclusion of the program (M3) (Fig.2).

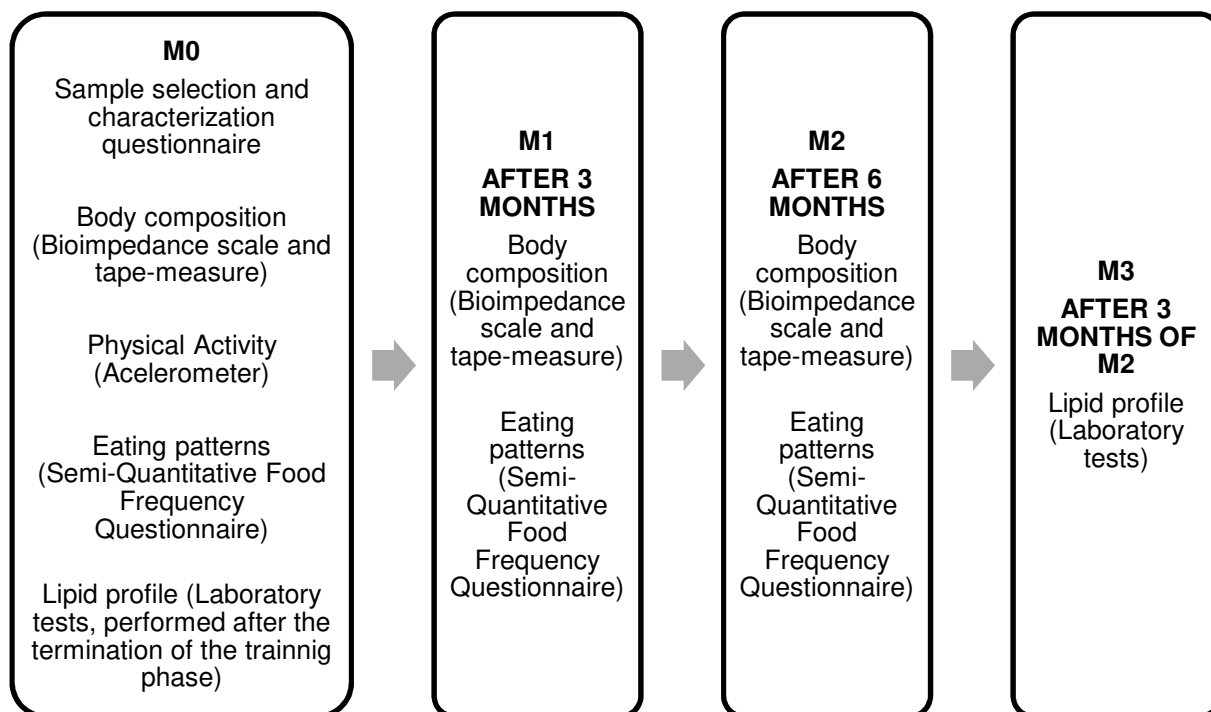


Fig. 2. Time management of the study and respective collections and instruments. M0, baseline/initial moment; M1, intermediate moment; M2, final moment; M3, three months after the program's completion.

2.2.1. Measurements

The participants filled in a sample selection and characterization questionnaire, made up of demographic questions and questions regarding medical history and CR.

Bioimpedance, body mass index and calculation of ratios were used to assess the body composition. At M0, the researchers started by making three measurements of height and considering the mean value. To that effect they used an inelastic tape-measure with a precision of 0.1cm to a maximum of 2m [27], measured in the final moment of inspiration at tidal volume, during apnea, with the participants in a standing position, barefooted and with their heels, buttocks and posterior side of the head against a wall [28].

Shortly after that, they proceeded to the assessment of the bioimpedance using a Tanita InnerScan bioimpedance scale, model BC-545 TM (EUA), weight and lean mass in kg, total body fat percentage and body fat at the trunk percentage, with the participants undressed, barefooted, and with their heels aligned with the electrodes of the platform, with no metallic objects [29]. The participants were told to avoid alcohol, caffeine and heavy meals in 24 hours

before, urinating half an hour before weighing and not carry out intense physical activity 4 hours before [28,29]. The bioimpedance scale had a capacity of 150 kg, with a precision of 0.1 kg for weight and 0.1% for fat mass percentage [29], as well as a criterion validity with dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry of $r=0.89$ [30]. The intra-observer reliability of the pilot study was remarkable ($ICC=0.94$) [31].

Height and ratio were used to calculate the body mass index $= \frac{\text{Body mass (Kg)}}{\text{Height}^2 \text{ (m)}}$. Each participant was classified as having: Normal Weight –18,5-24,9; Excess weight –25-29.9; and Obesity – $\geq 30 \text{ Kg/m}^2$ [26].

The tape-measure was also used to assess perimeters and subsequently to calculate ratios, which had presented an excellent intra-observer reliability in the pilot study ($ICC=0.90$) [31]; three non-consecutive measurements were performed in each part –midpoint between the lowest rib and the iliac crest (waist) and the great trochanters (hip) – at the end of inspiration at tidal volume, using the mean value. The participants were placed with their arms hanging loosely at both sides and feet shoulder width apart [28, 32]. Midpoint between the lowest rib and the iliac crest was divided by the great trochanters perimeter, in order to obtain the waist-to-hip circumference [28], and the midpoint between the lowest rib and the iliac crest perimeter was divided by height to obtain the waist-to-height circumference ratio [33, 34].

Later on, and only for sample characterization purposes, physical activity was measured with an ActiGraph accelerometer, model GT3X (head office at 49 East Chase Street Pensacola, FL 35502, USA), with the support of a record sheet. The accelerometer was placed vertically over the anterosuperior iliac crest, being removed only before sleep and prior to under-water activities [35]. Troiano's accelerometry cut points for different counts were considered to classify physical activity, as well as the sedentary (≤ 99), light (≥ 100 and ≤ 2019) and moderate to vigorous (≥ 2020) [36]. Participants were requested to use it during seven days running, having been included at least four valid days (a minimum of 600 min of gatherings), with at least one day at the weekend [36, 37]. The ActiLife software was used to register data at every 5 s (*epoch*).

With the goal of assessing the participants' eating habits and patterns over the last twelve months, each participant took home the Semi-Quantitative Food Frequency Questionnaire, validated for the Portuguese population [38], to be filled in. The intra-observer reliability of the pilot-study was fair ($ICC=0.54$ for calorie intake, $ICC=0.58$ for total fat and $ICC=0.55$ for carbohydrates) [31]. Later on, Food Processor Plus (ESHA Research, Salem, Oregon) was used to convert food into the nutrients chosen for analysis (calories, total fat and carbohydrates) [38].

In addition, data from the laboratory tests performed at *Centro Hospitalar do Porto* were gathered, total cholesterol levels in blood, high-density lipoprotein and low-density protein cholesterol, and triglycerides, obtaining the lipid profile.

2.2.2. Intervention

The researchers delivered pamphlets with information on the risk factors for cardiovascular disease, which focused on eating habits, smoking and physical activity. The pamphlets were presented and questions regarding the pamphlets were answered. A leaflet with a brief presentation of the study was also distributed. Before moving on to the exercise protocol and respective instructions, the subjects of the intervention groups attended three classes of teaching and demonstration (namely regarding the preparation of home space), with at least a one-day break between them [24,25]. IG1 was also taught on how to use Kinect.

Heart rate (HR) training for each participant was determined using the Karnoven's formula, with the HR reserve, based on the maximum HR of the stress test and obtaining the basal HR with the participant in a sitting and relaxed position. A Polar Wearlink Coded cardiofrequencimeter, model FT7 with watch, with an excellent precision (error of $\pm 1\%$ or $\pm 1\text{bpm}$) [39] was used to determine the HR training, as well as the number of repetitions.

The exercise protocol was adapted to the characteristics of the home context in the form of a self-monitoring system, presenting two progressive levels, so as to meet the principles of overcharge, specificity and reversibility, being performed at moderate intensity. At level 1 of the exercise protocol, the exercise intensity was 65% of the HR reserve. Three months passed, participants moved to level 2, with an intensity of 70% HR reserve [26, 40]. Exercise progression was made by increasing the number of repetitions, series and/or with modifications in the way how the exercise was performed.

The exercise intensity and the number of repetitions were also monitored with the Borg scale of perceived exertion (ratings between 6 and 20), so as to achieve an interval between 12 and 13 [25, 26, 40]. The scale presents a criterion validity of $r=0.62$ when compared with HR and $r=0.64$ when compared with VO_2 max [41]. The exercise protocol was performed three times a week [42], over six months [24, 25], in the most suitable time for each participant. In addition, in the remaining days, a daily walk of 30 min was recommended [42].

The exercise protocol (Table 1), designed by a certified expert in Physical Therapy with five years of experience in the field and adapted from Noites et al. [43], was made up of 10 exercises: a warm up exercise; seven exercises of conditioning workout aimed at enhancing muscular endurance and/or strength, and two exercises to increase limb flexibility. Additionally, exercises 1, 4, 6 and 7 were also aimed at improving balance, as well as exercise 5 and progression of exercise 3 were aimed at improving thoracic curve.

Table 1

Presentation of the exercise protocol.

Session phase		Exercise	Description
Warm up 10 min		1- Marching in place	Hip flexion, below the waist level, with flexion of the contralateral glenohumeral joint, always in the same place. After 3 months perform hip flexion up to the waist level.
Workout	Strength 20–25 min (to each individual repetitions calculated by 65–70% of the HR reserve)	2- Squats	With feet shoulder width apart, perform knee flexion, without going over the toes, with bilateral flexion of the glenohumeral joint to 90°. After 3 months perform 2 series with a 1 min break.
		3- Crossing	Keep marching in place throughout the exercise; perform the 1st proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation diagonal for bilateral upper limb flexion (glenohumeral flexion, adduction and external rotation). After 3 months perform 2 series with a 1 min break the 2nd proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation diagonal for bilateral upper limb flexion (glenohumeral flexion, abduction and external rotation).
		4 - Ankle movement	Dorsiflexion/plantar flexion of the ankles while standing. After 3 months perform 2 series with a 1 min break.
		5 - Backward movements of the arms	Keep marching in place throughout the exercise; perform extension, abduction and external rotation of the glenohumeral for the complete range. At the end of the movement forcefully increase range of movement 10 times. After 3 months perform 2 series with a 1 min break.
		6 - Sit and stand	Sitting in a chair with the upper limbs crossed over the chest. Sitting should be performed in a controlled movement. After 3 months down seat height.
	Endurance 35–45 min (to each individual repetitions calculated by 65–70% of the HR reserve)	7 - Step forward, sideways and backward	Perform forward and backward half-step with bilateral upper limb flexion, and sideways half-step with bilateral upper limb abduction and external rotation. After 3 months perform 2 series with a 1 minute break.
		8 - Walk (30 minutes)	After 3 months, if possible, increase to 60 min.
Stretching 6 min	9 - Calf muscle stretching		Stretch the triceps surae 4 repetitions/ maintain 15 s
	10 - Anterior forearm muscle stretching		Stretch the wrist flexors 4 repetitions/ maintain 15 s

HR, Heart Rate.

IG2 performed the home-based program with paper booklets for consultation. IG1's program included the use of Kinect (Microsoft) and a computer, having the system been installed at each participant's home. The *Kinect-RehabPlay* project, developed in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto [20], relies on software to monitor and evaluate the rehabilitation exercises, which have to be performed by the user and captured by the Kinect sensor, providing him/her with real time feedback about the given challenge. This system provides a virtual physical therapist performing the exercise and providing indications concerning the quality of execution. The participant is also represented as a second avatar, which interactively follows the physical therapist [20]. The software uses the Microsoft Kinect to track individual movement and making a match with a pre-defined pattern. This feature monitored the number of repetitions for each exercise, according to the pre-calculated value, and set it to the individual exercise profile. The same was referenced in the program along with the respective exercise.

The CG was only subjected to education on the cardiovascular risk factors; daily walks were also encouraged, similar to what happened with the intervention groups.

Throughout the study, the subjects in IG1 and IG2 added the HR values, Borg rating and eventual comments on an 'Exercise Diary' during sessions and in this way proving their assiduity to the exercises and so their adherence to the program. Phone contacts were scheduled for the weeks 4, 10 and 22, as well as home visits or in-person meetings (aimed at reevaluating and readjusting the exercises) for weeks 6 and 18 [24, 25]. E-mails and/or phone messages were sent on a weekly basis, emphasizing the importance of adhering to the program.

2.3. Statistics

Assuming a power of 80% with a 5% significance level, the power calculation revealed a training effect of 0.65 on triglycerides indicating a need for 27 participants to ensure statistical power to detect differences between the 3 groups in M3.

The statistical analysis was accomplished using the IBM SPSS 22 software (*Statistical Package for the Social Sciences*) for Windows, with a significance level of 0.05 and a confidence interval of 95%. Normal data distribution was verified by Shapiro-Wilk test. The sample was characterized through descriptive statistics using mean as measure of central tendency and standard deviation as a measure of dispersion. For the inter-group analysis, in the several moments (M0, M1, M2 and M3) and in the variables difference between the different assessment moments (M0-M1, M1-M2, M0-M2 and M0-M3), whenever the distribution was normal the one-way analysis of variance (*Anova*) test was used for the rational and nominal variables, and whenever the distribution was not normal the Kruskal-Wallis test and the Fisher test for independent samples were used for rational and nominal variables,

respectively. The t -test for independent samples was used to compare adherence rates between the intervention groups. In the intra-group analysis, to compare the M0, M1 and M2, the Anova test for repeated measures or the Friedman test were used, respectively, in case the variables followed the normal pattern or if they didn't. For the laboratory tests variables, to compare the M0 and M3, the t test for paired samples was used whenever the distribution was normal and the Wilcoxon test whenever it was not [44].

3. Results

As present in the flow diagram (Fig. 1), from the 150 subjects assessed for eligibility, 46 were recruited to participate in the study and randomized to the IG1, IG2 or CG. During the enrollment 104 subjects were excluded, 83 for not meeting the inclusion/exclusion criteria, 8 for refused to participate and 13 for did not attend the first assessment. Nonetheless, only 33 subjects were included in the analysis. During the follow-up 13 subjects were lost to follow-up, 4 in the IG1 for dropout (n=1), emigration (n=1) and decision to join a gym (n=2), 4 in the IG2 for did not attend the assessments (n=1), emigration (n=1), accident (n=1) and disease hindering the practice of physical exercise (n=1) and 5 in the CG for did not attend the assessments (n=2), hospitalization (n=1) and decision to join a gym (n=2). The final sample was composed of 33 subjects, all men.

At M0, no significant differences were found between the 3 groups ($p > 0.05$) in the demographic and clinical characteristics, and medication (Table 2) and its respective change throughout the study. As far as the body mass index is concerned, the 3 groups presented values classified as having excess weight of 63.6% in IG1, 45.4% in IG2 and 36.4% in CG. The physical activity was considered to be light in the 3 groups.

Concerning the percentage of subjects adhering to the program, for three sessions a week, IG1 presented a mean of 82% in the first three months and 70% in the last three, with a mean of 77% over the six months period. IG2 presented a mean of 90% in the first three months and 75% in the last three, with a mean of 83% for the whole six months. No significant differences were found between the 2 groups.

At M0, no significant differences were observed between the 3 groups in the variables under study. The same was observed with the body mass index and the data obtained from the bioimpedance scale during the inter-group analysis (Table 3). In the intra-group analysis of the lean mass, significant differences were found in IG1 ($F=4.702$ for $p=0.023$); however, using the Bonferroni's post-hoc correction, no significance was found.

Table 2

Sample characteristics in M0.

Variable		IG1 (n=11)	IG2 (n=11)	CG (n=11)
Age (years)		55 ± 9.0	59 ± 11.3	59 ± 5.8
Body mass index (Kg/m ²)		27.4 ± 3.0	26.9 ± 4.7	28.0 ± 3.6
Counts (Counts/min)		355.4 ± 144.6	365.1 ± 138.5	424.9 ± 82.6
Professional situation	Active	7 (64%)	2 (18%)	5 (45%)
	Inactive	4 (36%)	9 (82%)	6 (55%)
Reason for hospitalization	ACS without ST elevation	6 (55%)	6 (55%)	5(45%)
	ACS with ST elevation	5 (45%)	3 (27%)	6 (55%)
	Stable Angina <i>Pectoris</i>	0	2 (18%)	0
	and post-angioplasty			
Cardiovascular Risk factors	Dyslipidemia	10 (91%)	9 (82%)	8 (73%)
	Obesity	2 (18%)	2 (18%)	4 (36%)
	Diabetes Mellitus	2 (18%)	3 (27%)	1 (9%)
	Hypertension	5 (45%)	6 (55%)	8 (73%)
	Smoking	5 (45%)	5 (45%)	4 (36%)
	Family history	1 (9%)	1 (9%)	2 (18%)
Pharmacology	Blood Platelet Antiaggregants	9 (82%)	11 (100%)	10 (91%)
	Beta blockers	8 (73%)	9 (82%)	8 (73%)
	Statins	9 (82%)	11 (100%)	11 (100%)
	Antihypertensive drugs	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	6 (55%)
	Vasodilators	1 (9%)	3 (27%)	5 (45%)
	Calcium channel blockers	0	1 (9%)	1 (9%)
Cardiovascular Risk	Low	7 (64%)	7 (64%)	8 (73%)
	Moderate	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	3 (27%)

Data are expressed as mean values and standard deviation or n (%). The cardiovascular risk was classified according to Pescatello et al. [26]. ACS, Acute Coronary Syndrome; CG, control group; IG1, intervention group 1; IG2, intervention group 2.

Table 3

Inter-group analysis at different moments (M0, M1 and M2) and of the variables difference (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2) of the Bioimpedance scale and Body mass index.

Variable		Group	M0 X±SD	M1 X±SD	M2 X±SD	Variable difference		
						M0-M1	M1-M2	M0-M2
Bioimpedance scale	Total body fat percentage (%)	IG1	25.5 ± 4.3 (n=11)	22.8 ± 5.8 (n=10)	25.7 ± 5.4 (n=10)			
		IG2	23.5 ± 5.1 (n=11)	21 ± 6.1 (n=11)	23.5 ± 6.0 (n=11)			
		CG	22.5 ± 4.9 (n=11)	21.9 ± 6.2 (n=10)	24.1 ± 5.2 (n=11)			
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
	Body fat at the trunk percentage (%)	IG1	28.7 ± 5.4 (n=11)	25.3 ± 6.3 (n=10)	28.7 ± 5.9 (n=10)			
		IG2	25.7 ± 5.9 (n=11)	23.0 ± 6.6 (n=11)	25.8 ± 5.7 (n=11)			
		CG	24.0 ± 5.9 (n=11)	23.6 ± 7.1 (n=10)	25.8 ± 6.3 (n=11)			
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
	Lean mass (Kg)	IG1	55.0 ± 6.4 (n=11)	56.1 ± 5.2 (n=10)	54.0 ± 6.0 (n=10)			
		IG2	54.8 ± 9.5 (n=11)	55.9 ± 8.2 (n=11)	54.7 ± 9.0 (n=11)			
		CG	58.6 ± 7.0 (n=11)	58.0 ± 6.6 (n=10)	57.5 ± 6.5 (n=11)			
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
	Body mass index (Kg/m ²)	IG1	27.4 ± 3.0 (n=11)	27.3 ± 3.6 (n=10)	27.4 ± 4.2 (n=10)			
		IG2	26.9 ± 4.7 (n=11)	25.6 ± 2.8 (n=10)	25.9 ± 3.0 (n=10)			
		CG	28.0 ± 3.6 (n=11)	27.7 ± 3.5 (n=10)	28.1 ± 3.5 (n=11)			
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

Data are presented as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD). CG, control group; IG1, intervention group 1; IG2, intervention group 2; M0, baseline/initial moment; M1, intermediate moment; M2, final moment; NS, non-significant; *p*, significance level.

Examining the ratios, in the waist-to-hip ratio, in the inter-group analysis of the variable difference M0-M1 significant differences were found between the groups ($F=3.445$ for $p=0.046$) with a significant decrease in IG1 compared with CG ($p=0.041$) (Table 4). In the intra-group analysis, significant differences were found in IG1 ($F=7.013$ for $p=0.005$) with a significant decrease from M0 to M2 ($p=0.033$).

Table 4

Inter-group analysis at different moments (M0, M1 and M2) and of the variables difference (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2) of the Ratios.

Variable		Group	M0 X±SD	M1 X±SD	M2 X±SD	Variable difference		
						M0-M1	M1-M2	M0-M2
Ratios	Waist-to-hip ratio	IG1	0.95 ± 0.04 (n=11)	0.93 ± 0.04 (n=11)	0.93 ± 0.04 (n=11)			
		IG2	0.94 ± 0.08 (n=11)	0.96 ± 0.05 (n=10)	0.94 ± 0.05 (n=11)			
		CG	0.94 ± 0.04 (n=11)	0.95 ± 0.06 (n=10)	0.95 ± 0.06 (n=11)			
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS	0.046 ^{*a}	NS	NS
		Post-hoc				IG1 # CG <i>p</i> =0.041 ^{*b}		
	Waist-to-height ratio	IG1	0.56 ± 0.04 (n=11)	0.56 ± 0.04 (n=11)	0.56 ± 0.06 (n=11)			
		IG2	0.55 ± 0.07 (n=11)	0.54± 0.07 (n=11)	0.56 ± 0.06 (n=11)			
		CG	0.57 ± 0.06 (n=11)	0.57± 0.06 (n=10)	0.57 ± 0.06 (n=11)			
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

Data are expressed as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD). CG, control group; IG1, intervention group 1; IG2, intervention group 2; M0, baseline/initial moment; M1, intermediate moment; M2, final moment; NS, non-significant; *p*, significance level; ^a significant value; ^a exercise value with the Anova test; ^b exercise value for Tukey's post-hoc.

In the inter-group analysis for the Semi-Quantitative Food Frequency Questionnaire, no significant differences were found between the 3 groups. However, for IG1, in the intra-group analysis, significant differences were found regarding the values of total fat ($X^2=6.545$ for $p=0.038$) with a significant decrease from M0 to M2 ($p=0.032$) and carbohydrates ($F=4.862$ for $p=0.045$), nevertheless, using the Bonferroni's post-hoc correction, no significance was found.

The results of the laboratory tests did not reveal any significant difference in the inter-group analysis, except in the triglycerides at M3 ($F=4.056$ for $p=0.034$); however, in Tukey's

post-hoc, no significance was found (Table 5). The intra-group analysis revealed significant differences, with a significant increase, in high-density lipoprotein cholesterol in IG1 ($t=-3.281$ for $p=0.017$).

Table 5

Inter-group analysis at different moments (M0 and M3) and of the variable difference (M0-M3) of the Laboratory tests.

Variable		Group	M0 X \pm SD	M3 X \pm SD	Variable difference M0-M3
Laboratory tests	Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	IG1	144.6 \pm 59.1 (n=10)	141.6 \pm 26.5 (n=8)	
		IG2	147.7 \pm 36.1 (n=11)	175.4 \pm 45.4 (n=8)	
		CG	147.1 \pm 42.5 (n=11)	168.9 \pm 22.8 (n=8)	
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS
	High-density lipoprotein cholesterol (mg/dl)	IG1	42.2 \pm 6.3 (n=10)	45.3 \pm 6.4 (n=8)	
		IG2	40.6 \pm 8.2 (n=11)	39.7 \pm 6.1 (n=7)	
		CG	43.5 \pm 8.0 (n=11)	48.6 \pm 10.1 (n=8)	
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS
	Low -density protein cholesterol (mg/dl)	IG1	78.4 \pm 37.4 (n=10)	71.4 \pm 28.2 (n=8)	
		IG2	78.9 \pm 18.5 (n=11)	98.9 \pm 34.4 (n=7)	
		CG	85.3 \pm 38.8 (n=11)	97.7 \pm 21.5 (n=7)	
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS
	Triglycerides (mg/dl)	IG1	105.5 \pm 38.6 (n=10)	104.1 \pm 38.2 (n=8)	
		IG2	124.5 \pm 56.8 (n=11)	156.0 \pm 65.2 (n=8)	
		CG	92.0 \pm 16.8 (n=11)	100.6 \pm 14.0 (n=8)	
		<i>p</i>	NS	0,034 ^{*a}	NS

Data are expressed as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD). CG, control group; IG1, intervention group 1; IG2, intervention group 2; M0, baseline/initial moment; M3, three months after the program's completion; NS, non-significant; *p*, significance level; *significant value; ^a exercise value with the Anova test.

4. Discussion

Excess weight and obesity are linked to a greater risk for cardiovascular disease, and the assessment of the body composition is useful to detect and control this risk [32]. According to Koning et. al. [45], an increase of 0.01 in the waist-to-hip ratio is associated with an increase of 5% in the risk of going through cardiac-related events, being the cardiovascular risk in men stronger when the waist-to-hip ratio is ≥ 1 [28]. In addition the waist-to-height ratio has been increasingly used to measure the adipose tissue in older adults, due to its high validity. It is also a good predictor of the vulnerability to risk factors for cardiovascular diseases and metabolic syndromes [46], although there's no consensus regarding the cut point that represents a trigger for the increase of metabolic risk, a point of 0.5 has been suggested [33, 34].

The present exercise protocol was composed of strength and endurance exercises, which have remarkable effects on the loss of fat mass and on the increase of lean mass [47]. These effects are boosted when they're accompanied by a controlled diet [47] – an aspect that was not neglected in the course of the study. According to Mandic et al. [48], studies that have examined the effects of long-term (> 1 year) CR programs found favourable changes in body composition and lipoprotein profile, with less deterioration in body weight control.

According to Noites et. al. [8], whenever a specific regimen is changed to introduce healthier eating habits, a decrease in the body composition values can be acknowledged, therefore being important to monitor food consumption. A strong motivation to exercise might bring about some changes in eating patterns, resulting in the adoption of healthier eating habits [8], being one of the benefits of CR programs the improvement of the lipid profile [10].

The results of this study suggest that, in this sample, starting a specific exercise program during the maintenance phase of CR, in a virtual reality format, led to improvements in the waist-to-hip ratio in the first three months. The participants in the study had already completed a training phase, in which the outcomes studied would have been presumably promoted, being important not to forget that these subjects were also under the control of the medication. Overall, the values were close to being the recommended ones at the beginning of the present experiment. However, it is important to remember that one of the main objectives of the maintenance phase of the CR is the maintenance, and so no loss, of the gains obtained in the training phase [4], and, whenever possible, the promotion of gains.

As stated above, the waist-to-hip ratio underwent a significant decrease in the virtual reality group between the baseline/initial and final moments of the study, compared with CG in the first three months. The GC, considering the mean values, confirmed an increase of 5% in the risk of going through cardiac-relates events. At the baseline/initial moment of the study, 9.1% of the subjects from CG had a waist-to-hip ratio ≥ 1 , and that percentage had increased by the end, moving to 27.3%. On the other hand, the subjects of IG1 and IG2 presented percentages

of 9.1% and 18.2% respectively, with a waist-to-hip ratio ≥ 1 ; nevertheless, at the end of the program that percentage remained unchanged. This allows us to affirm that the program contributed to prevent a worsening of the cardiovascular risk.

In this study, even though no significant changes were found in the waist-to-height ratio, it should be highlighted that, in IG2 and CG, 18.2% and 9.1% of the subjects respectively had a waist-to-height ratio < 0.5 , and by the end of the program this percentage stayed the same. In turn, IG1 had 0% of subjects with a waist-to-height ratio < 0.5 , and this percentage increased and improved to 9.1% by the end of the program.

Regarding the mean values of the body mass index, the three groups maintained an 'excess weight' classification throughout the study. However, as far as the bioimpedance data are concerned, the intervention groups presented some improvements in the body composition in the first three months, even if they were not significant, when compared with CG, since there was an increase of lean mass and a decrease of total body fat percentage and body fat at the trunk percentage. Regarding the laboratory tests, even though no significant differences between the groups were found, it was possible to observe a significant increase, but only in the group subjected to the virtual reality format in the high-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels however, it should be highlighted the almost invariable upkeep of the reference values for the remaining parameters, according to the *European Society of Cardiology* and the *European Atherosclerosis Society*.

All participants had access to generic information concerning eating habits through the pamphlets and information delivered however, it is important to note that, as part of this study, this same information was not personalized and/or accompanied by a specialized professional such as a nutritionist. Despite having been noticed a decrease in the consumption of total fat in the three groups (as visible in the Semi-Quantitative Food Frequency Questionnaire), this decrease was significant only in the virtual reality format, between the baseline/initial and final moments of the study, which means that the Kinect might have been an added value, however no significant differences between the groups were found. These results regarding eating patterns are in accordance with the results attained in the lipid profile, which were more positive in the group subjected to the virtual reality format, as well as with the results in body composition. Nonetheless, it should be highlighted that, in the three moments, the three groups were, by average values, within the reference values for total fat and as a rule for calories, but below the reference values for carbohydrates. The daily consumption of the studied nutrients was therefore disproportionate to the recommended, at least in part [49].

In this study, the results of the first three months were better than those of the last three months. This can be explained by a decrease in adherence after three months. In this study, as in the study of Grace et al. [50], adherence was defined as the number of sessions attended (in the case of this study according to the registration in the 'Exercise Diary') divided by the

number of sessions prescribed (three sessions a week during 6 months in the case of this study). According to Chatzitofis et al. [51] the application of home-based exercise programs in the context of CR carried the possibility of providing much higher adherence rates. Throughout the study/program, the adherence to the three weekly sessions was always higher than 65% in the two formats [43], a good adherence in both groups [43, 50] however, with a noticeable decline in the last three months. No significant differences were found between the groups, what proves that the adherence rate did not influence the results. In this study, as in the study of Noites et al. [43], the home-based CR program was monitored, accompanied and encouraged by remote supervision and by meetings. The decline in adherence over time may mean that participants had difficulty maintaining the habits of physical exercise or that the protocol is not sufficiently motivating for a long timeline.

The sample size can be pointed as a limitation of this study, preventing the results from being extrapolated. For further studies, we believe that it would be important to focus on methods to increase motivation, as well as on the possibility of integrating a specific and personalized nutritional program guided by a nutritionist, the analysis of the physical activity levels throughout the study and, taking into consideration the stratification by ages and the body mass index, and the conduction of these studies in the training phase of CR. It would also be important to take into account, in the process of randomization, aspects such as the initial values of the laboratory tests.

5. Conclusions

In this sample, composed of subjects with coronary artery disease, the home-based specific exercise program, prescribed for a period of six months to be performed during the maintenance phase of CR, showed benefits in the group that completed the program in a virtual reality format, in the first three months compared with CG, on body composition, specifically on the waist-to-hip ratio, which can reveal the potential of virtual reality with the Kinect, at least in the first three months.

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CAPÍTULO V

Virtual reality exercise on a home-based phase III cardiac rehabilitation program, effect on executive function, quality of life and depression, anxiety and stress: a randomized controlled trial

(Estudo III)

Estudo III

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Virtual reality exercise on a home-based phase III cardiac rehabilitation program, effect on executive function, quality of life and depression, anxiety and stress: a randomized controlled trial

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Abstract

Purpose: To analyse the effect of a six-month home-based phase III cardiac rehabilitation (CR) specific exercise program, performed in a virtual reality (Kinect) or conventional (booklet) environment, on executive function, quality of life and depression, anxiety and stress of subjects with coronary artery disease.

Methods: A randomized controlled trial was conducted with subjects, who had completed phase II, randomly assigned to intervention group 1 (IG1), whose program encompassed the use of Kinect (n=11); or intervention group 2 (IG2), a paper booklet (n=11); or a control group (CG), only subjected to the usual care (n=11). The three groups received education on cardiovascular risk factors. The assessed parameters, at baseline (M0), 3 (M1) and 6 months (M2), were executive function, control and integration in the implementation of an adequate behaviour in relation to a certain objective, specifically the ability to switch information (Trail Making Test), working memory (Verbal Digit Span test), and selective attention and conflict resolution ability (Stroop Test), quality of life (MacNew Questionnaire) and depression, anxiety, and stress (Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale 21). Descriptive and inferential statistical measures were used, significance level was set at .05.

Results: The IG1 revealed significant improvements, in the selective attention and conflict resolution ability, in comparison with the CG in the variable difference M0-M2 ($p=.021$) and in comparison with the IG2 in the variable difference M1-M2 and M0-M2 ($p=.001$ and $p=.002$, respectively). No significant differences were found in the quality of life, and depression, anxiety, and stress.

Conclusions: The virtual reality format had improved selective attention and conflict resolution ability, revealing the potential of CR, specifically with virtual reality exercise, on executive function.

Keywords

Virtual reality exercise; cardiac rehabilitation; executive function; quality of life; depression, anxiety and stress

Implications for rehabilitation

- In cardiac rehabilitation, especially in phase III, it is important to develop and to present alternative strategies, as virtual reality using the Kinect in a home context.
- Taking into account the relationship between the improvement of the executive function with physical exercise, it is relevant to access the impact of a cardiac rehabilitation programme on the executive function.
- Enhancing the value of the phase III of cardiac rehabilitation.

Introduction

When we talk about cardiovascular diseases, coronary artery disease is one of the most common diseases [1]. It is important to implement measures that work in both primary and secondary prevention, so, in this context, cardiac rehabilitation (CR) programs were developed [2]. The phase III, the last one of CR, focuses on long-term prevention, representing long-term outpatient supervision of patient adherence to prescribed lifestyle [3].

Cognitive decline might be associated with a reduction of the cardiovascular function, derived from the aging process, due to the progressive decline of oxygenation and hypoxia at the brain level [4,5]. As time elapses, the autorepair and autoadaptation (neuroplasticity) capacities of the nervous system are affected and become unable to compensate the lost neural networks, leading to a decrease in the neural tissues' density [4]. Several mechanisms have been singled out as contributions to the cognitive dysfunction in a patient with cardiovascular disease, including the low cardiac output, endothelial dysfunction, low physical activity and reduced blood flow to the brain [6]. With this, there is reason to believe that participation in CR programs can improve cognitive function in these patients [6]. In this study, we specifically explored the executive function, which consists of metacognitive capacities that open space to the control and integration in the implementation of an adequate behaviour in relation to a certain objective, that requires attention, programing and planning sequences, as well as inhibiting processes and contradictory information which are the responsibility of the pre-frontal cortex [7–9].

According to Antunes et al. [4], physical exercise improves and protects brain function and can fasten cognitive processing. Aerobic exercise improves not only cardiovascular fitness, but also brain function and cognition [10,11]. Physical exercise strengthens executive function by increasing neurogenesis and vascular plasticity [12]. Thus, it is often suggested that physically active subjects are in lesser risk of developing mental disorders than sedentary subjects [13]. Physical exercise is therefore essential to maximize our physical, psychological and social well-being by promoting the development of motor learning skills and the cognitive function, which influence our quality of life [1,4].

It is recognized that cardiovascular diseases influence the quality of life of the individual, since it is related to an increase in functional dependence [14]. The presence of depressive symptoms has been associated, more and more, with a higher morbidity and mortality rate in cardiovascular diseases [15]. Since the recovery and/or maintenance of quality of life is one of the primary goals of CR [2] it becomes important to study its impact on quality of life and depression, anxiety and stress. There is sufficient evidence (class 1) that clarifies the importance of CR programs in improving health-related quality of life [14], so it is pertinent to its analysis in phase III of CR.

As far as CR is concerned, an alternative to the implementation of CR programs are home-based CR programs, given the growing economic burden of coronary artery disease in the whole world, the development of an affordable, acceptable and suitable CR method based on the community becomes increasingly important [16,17], especially if we are talking about the phase III of CR. In addition, the use of information and communication technologies, Telehealth, might be a viable alternative in CR [18]. In this context, the possibility of using the Kinect, a new virtual reality-based technology of Xbox, Microsoft [19], as a working tool, can be extremely valuable. Virtual exercise programs, interactive games, are becoming increasingly popular in general rehabilitation, being the Kinect a possible tool, however, there is little research on the use of the Kinect as a therapeutic tool [19]. Real-time technology and Microsoft's motion sensor, Kinect, can make rehabilitation more successful and fun [20]. Kinect is inexpensive, easy to set up and can be used in clinical and home environments, being that this accessibility can facilitate rehabilitation [20]. The use of computers and gaming equipment in physical therapy is progressively more relevant in the medical community [19], so why not to explore this in a context of CR.

Considering all the aforementioned aspects that contribute to the decline of executive function, and the important impact of cardiovascular diseases in quality of life and depression, anxiety and stress, it becomes important to conduct this type of study in a CR context, phase III, especially if using new technologies. The goal of this study was to analyse the effect of a specific exercise program which was designed to be performed at home context during the phase III of CR, over a six-month period. The study compared a virtual reality format (Kinect), a conventional format (booklet) and a control group (CG) (usual care) and measured changes in executive function, quality of life and depression, anxiety and stress, for subjects with coronary artery disease.

In the following sections it will be described in detail the study, with presentation of the sample and intervention with description of the exercise protocol and specifically the virtual reality exercise. It will also describe the data collection and present and discuss the results obtained.

Methods

This study is part of a global project and, in the same, presented a similar methodology to that previously published in Vieira et al. [21,22], duly referenced throughout the present study.

Study design

This study is a prospective randomized controlled trial single site, according to Vieira et al. [22], using a three arm, parallel group over a 23-month period.

According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the *Centro Hospitalar do Porto* (Porto Healthcare Centre in Portugal) – Teaching, Coaching and Research Department – N/REF.^a 212/12 (165-DEFI/157-CES) and by the Ethics Committee of the Health School, Polytechnic Institute of Porto – 1489/2012. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], all procedures were conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki and, according to Vieira et al. [22], the study is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT02753829).

Sample

According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the sample was obtained from the *Centro Hospitalar do Porto*. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the target population was composed of subjects who had just completed the phase II of CR at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit. The subjects were, by the research coordinator at the end of the phase II, in-person and, according to Vieira et al. [22], individually invited to participate in this study. According to Vieira et al. [22], the enrolment and assignment were conducted by the research coordinator, with the support of the responsible of the Unit, according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria (Table 1) according to Vieira et al. [21,22].

Table 1. Inclusion/Exclusion criteria. The same as Vieira et al. [21, 22].

Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subjects of both sexes, aged between 40-75 years; • Completed phase II of CR at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit; • Coronary artery disease, diagnosed and stabilized, with no unstable angina and complex ventricular arrhythmias [23-26], with or without percutaneous coronary intervention and with a final diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction or stable angina <i>pectoris</i>; • Access to a computer with Microsoft Windows 7 (minimum). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart surgery; • Non-completed stress test due to maximum fatigue; • Pregnancy or planning to get pregnant; • Cardiovascular high risk [23,25,26] according to Pescatello et al. [27]; • Pacemaker, severe neurological, musculoskeletal or pulmonary diseases, and uncompensated metabolic disorders, reported dementia [25-27], cardiomyopathies and previous cardiorespiratory arrest non-associated with acute myocardial infarction or heart procedures; • Significant and uncompensated visual [25] and auditory deficits; • Uneducated and/or with no fluency in Portuguese; • Attending or planning to attend gym or regular physical exercise programs.

The flow diagram, according to Vieira et al. [22], is presented in Figure 1. According to Vieira et al. [22], the participants were randomly assigned to one of the three groups: intervention group 1 (IG1) – a home-based CR program, using a computer and Kinect (virtual reality format) (n=15); intervention group 2 (IG2) – a home-based CR program using a paper booklet

(conventional format) (n=15); and a CG, only subjected to the usual care (n=16). According to Vieira et al. [22] a randomization by blocks was used, and an allocation sequence based on a fixed block size of 3 was generated with a computer random number generator by a blind investigator, not involved in the trial.

According to Vieira et al. [21, 22] throughout the follow-up, four subjects were excluded from IG1 and, according to Vieira et al. [22], from IG2, and five from CG. Therefore, according to Vieira et al. [22], the final sample was composed of 33 subjects: IG1 n=11, IG2 n=11 and CG n=11.

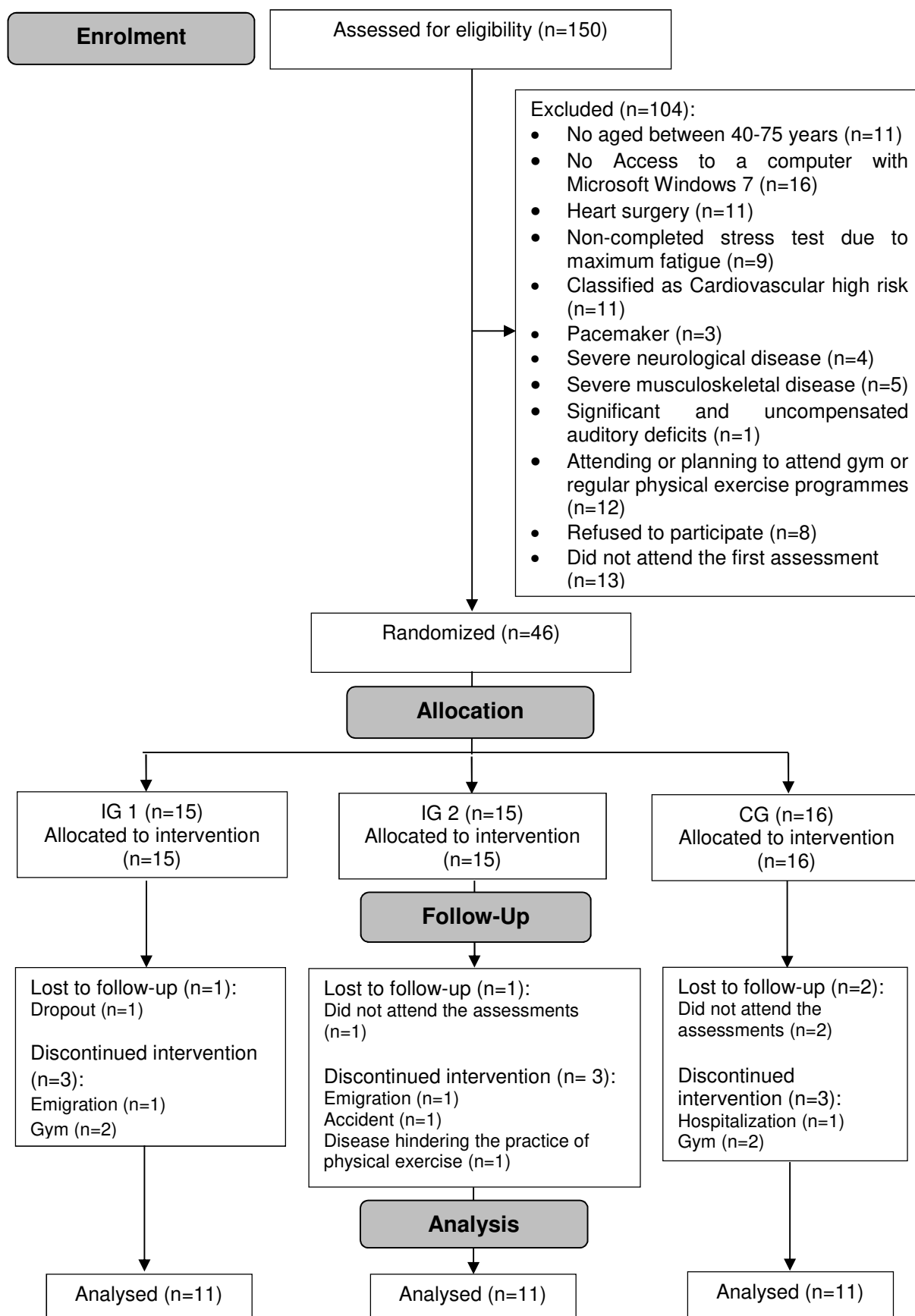


Figure 1. Flow diagram of patients (assessed for eligibility n=150). According to Vieira et al. [22]. CG: control Group; IG1: intervention Group 1; IG2: intervention Group 2.

Intervention

All participants of the three groups received education on cardiovascular risk factors. The intervention groups had also access to a specific exercise program, performed with the virtual reality (Kinect), IG1, or a paper booklet, IG2.

The teaching process and in-person follow-up took place at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit, Health School of Porto and/or participant's home.

According to Vieira et al. [22], were first delivered pamphlets to all participants of the three groups with information on the risk factors for cardiovascular disease, which focused on eating habits, smoking and physical activity; the pamphlets were presented and questions regarding the pamphlets were answered. A leaflet with a brief presentation of the study, according to Vieira et al. [22], was also distributed. With regard to the intervention groups, according to Vieira et al. [21,22], before moving on to the exercise protocol and respective instructions, the subjects of the intervention groups attended three classes of teaching and demonstration (namely regarding the preparation of home space), with at least a one-day break between them [25,26]. IG1, according to Vieira et al. [21,22], was also taught on how to use Kinect. Heart rate (HR) training, for each participant, was determined by the research coordinator, according to Vieira et al. [21,22] using Karnoven's formula, with the HR reserve, based on the maximum HR of the stress test and obtaining the basal HR with the participant in a sitting and relaxed position. According to Vieira et al. [22], a Polar Wearlink Coded cardiofrequencímetro, model FT7 with watch, with an excellent precision (error of $\pm 1\%$ or $\pm 1\text{bpm}$) [28] was used to determine the HR training, as well as the number of repetitions.

The exercise protocol, performed for the intervention groups during six months, according to Vieira et al. [21,22] was adapted to the characteristics of the home context in the form of a self-monitoring system, presenting two progressive levels, so as to meet the principles of overcharge, specificity and reversibility, being performed at moderate intensity, at level 1 of the exercise protocol, the exercise intensity was 65% of the HR reserve [27,29]. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], three months passed, participants moved to level 2, with an intensity of 70% HR reserve [27,29]. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], exercise progression was made by increasing the number of repetitions, series and/or with modifications in the way how the exercise was performed.

According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the exercise intensity and the number of repetitions were also monitored with the Borg scale of perceived exertion (ratings between 6 and 20), so as to achieve an interval between 12 and 13 [26,27,29]. According to Vieira et al. [22], the scale presents a criterion validity of $r = 0.62$ when compared with HR and $r = 0.64$ when compared with VO2 max [30]. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the exercise protocol was performed three times a week [1] over six months [25,26] in the most suitable time for each participant.

According to Vieira et al. [22], in addition, in the remaining days, a daily walk of 30minutes was recommended [1].

According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the exercise protocol (Table 2), designed by a certified expert in Physical Therapy with five years of experience in the field and adapted from Noites et al. [31], was made up of 10 exercises: a warm up exercise; seven exercises of conditioning workout aimed at enhancing cardiorespiratory and muscular endurance and/or strength, and two exercises to increase limb flexibility. Additionally, according to Vieira et al. [21,22], exercises 1, 4, 6 and 7 were also aimed at improving balance, as well as exercise 5 and progression of exercise 3 were aimed at improving thoracic curve.

The exercise protocol was exactly the same with the virtual reality (Kinect), IG1, and the paper booklet, IG2.

According to Vieira et al. [22], IG2 performed the home-based program with paper booklets for consultation. IG1's program included the use of virtual reality exercise, according to Vieira et al. [21,22] with the Kinect (Microsoft) and a computer, having the system been installed at each participant's home. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the *Kinect-RehabPlay* project, developed in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto [32], relies on software to monitor and evaluate the rehabilitation exercises, which have to be performed by the user and captured by the Kinect sensor, providing him/her with real time feedback about the given challenge. [32]. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], this system provides a virtual physical therapist performing the exercise and providing indications concerning the quality of execution [32]. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the participant is also represented as a second avatar, which interactively follows the physical therapist [32]. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], the software uses the Microsoft Kinect to track individual movement and making a match with a pre-defined pattern. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], this feature monitored the number of repetitions for each exercise, according to the pre-calculated value, and set it to the individual exercise profile, being the same referenced in the program along with the respective exercise.

According to Vieira et al. [21], the *Kinect-RehabPlay* system is composed of three modules, the virtual reality environment, the Kinect sensor, and the monitoring software package, serving the Kinect sensor as an input to the virtual reality environment, which is monitored by the monitoring software package [32]. According to Vieira et al. [21], the exercises to be performed are presented in a graphical form to encourage the user to continue with the exercises, but also to demonstrate how to perform them, being the virtual environment in which it takes place an important part of the *Kinect-RehabPlay* system [32], offering the system visual and audio instructions.

Figure 2, according to Vieira et al [21], shows the interaction between the user and the *Kinect-RehabPlay* system, in the home of one of the participants.

Table 2. Presentation of the exercise protocol. The same as Vieira et al. [21, 22].

Sesion phase		Exercise	Description
Warm up 10 minutes		1- Marching in place	Hip flexion, below the waist level, with flexion of the contralateral glenohumeral joint, always in the same place. After 3 months perform hip flexion up to the waist level.
Workout	Strength 20–25 minutes (to each individual repetitions calculated by 65–70% of the HR reserve)	2- Squats	With feet shoulder width apart, perform knee flexion, without going over the toes, with bilateral flexion of the glenohumeral joint to 90°. After 3 months performing two series with a one minute break.
		3- Crossing	Keep marching in place throughout the exercise; performed the 1st proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation diagonal for bilateral upper limb flexion (glenohumeral flexion, adduction and external rotation). After 3 months performing two series with a one minute break the 2nd proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation diagonal for bilateral upper limb flexion (glenohumeral flexion, abduction and external rotation).
		4 - Ankle movement	Dorsiflexion/plantar flexion of the ankles while standing. After 3 months performing two series with a one minute break.
	Endurance 35–45 minutes (to each individual repetitions calculated by 65–70% of the HR reserve)	5 - Backward movements of the arms	Keep marching in place throughout the exercise; perform extension, abduction and external rotation of the glenohumeral for the complete range. At the end of the movement forcefully increased range of movement 10 times. After 3 months performing two series with a one minute break.
		6 - Sit and stand	Sitting in a chair with the upper limbs crossed over the chest. Sitting should be performed in a controlled movement. After 3 months cut down seat height.
		7 - Step forward, sideways and backward	Perform forward and backward half-step with bilateral upper limb flexion, and sideways half-step with bilateral upper limb abduction and external rotation. After 3 months performing two series with a one minute break.
Stretching 6 minutes		8 - Walk (30 minutes)	After 3 months, if possible, increase to 60 minutes.
		9 - Calf muscle stretching	Stretch the triceps surae 4 repetitions/ maintain 15 seconds
		10 - Anterior forearm muscle stretching	Stretch the wrist flexors 4 repetitions/ maintain 15 seconds

HR: heart rate.



Figure 2. Virtual reality exercise in a real context. The same as Vieira et al. [21].

Throughout the study, the subjects in IG1 and IG2, according to Vieira et al. [21,22], added, during the sessions, the HR values, Borg rating and eventual comments on an ‘Exercise Diary’ and in this way proving their assiduity to the exercises and so their adherence to the program. According to Vieira et al. [22], adherence percentage was so defined as the number of sessions attended, according to the registration in the “Exercise Diary”, divided by the total number of sessions prescribed (three sessions a week during 6 months).

The registration of the HR training and Borg rating, at home during the sessions, worked as a way of monitoring. The participants assessed the HR with the aid of a cardiofrequencímetro, that they had voluntarily acquired, or with manual measurement previously taught.

The CG was only subjected to the usual care. According to Vieira et al. [22], equal to what happened with the intervention groups, they also received education on cardiovascular risk factors, having being the daily walks also encouraged.

For the three groups, according to Vieira et al. [21,22], phone contacts were scheduled for the weeks 4, 10 and 22, as well as, for the intervention groups, home visits or in-person meetings (aimed at reevaluating and readjusting the exercises) for weeks 6 and 18 [25,26]. According to Vieira et al. [21,22], emails and/or phone messages were sent for the participants of the intervention groups, on a weekly basis, emphasizing the importance of adhering to the program.

All participants, of the three groups, had access to the research coordinator contacts.

Data collection

According to Vieira et al. [22], a pilot study was conducted among 10 subjects whose characteristics resembled the ones from the target population, with the aim of assessing the

feasibility of the exercises, the reliability of the instruments and to improve the time management of data collections.

The assessment of the study for the three groups, according to and adapted from Vieira et al. [22] encompassed three moments: a baseline/initial moment (M0), right after the termination of the phase II and before the beginning of the program; an intermediate moment (M1), three months after the beginning of the program; and a final moment (M2), six months after the beginning of the program, being present in Figure 3 the time management of the study and respective data collections with the instruments. According to Vieira et al. [22], data collection took place at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit and the Health School of Porto.

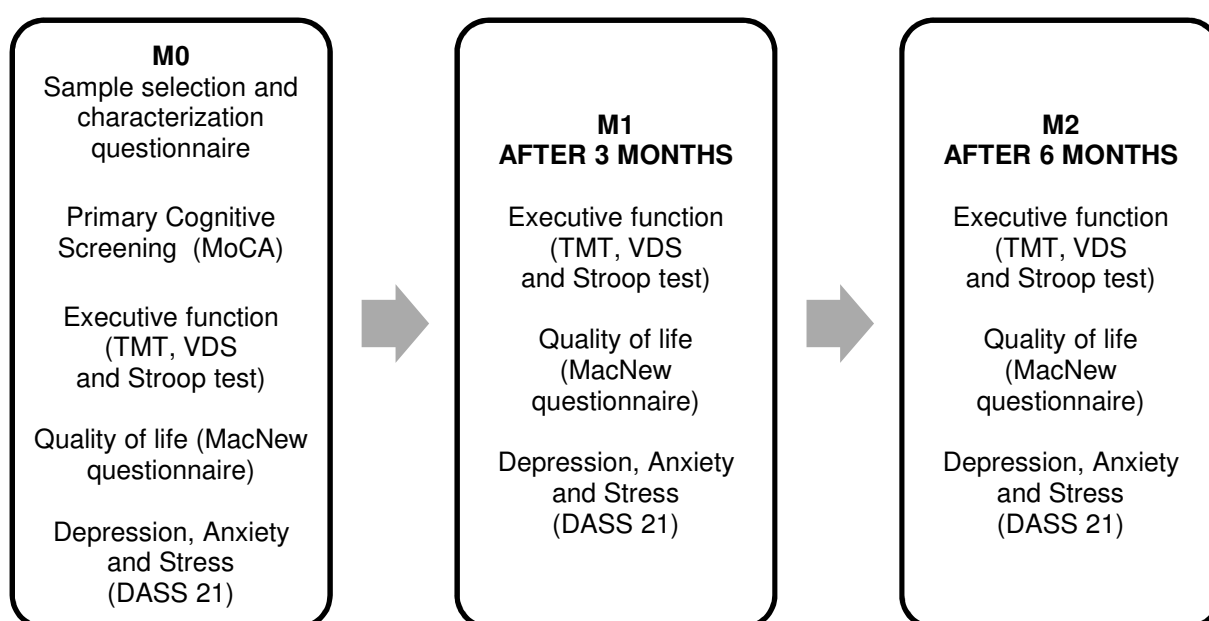


Figure 3. Time management of the study and respective data collections with the instruments. M0: baseline/initial moment; M1: intermediate moment (3 months); M2: final moment (6 months); DASS 21: Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale 21; MoCA: Montreal Cognitive Assessment; TMT: Trail Making Test; VDS, Verbal Digit Span.

At M0, the participants, according to Vieira et al. [22], filled in a sample selection and characterization questionnaire.

This was made up of eight personal and demographic questions, nine questions regarding medical history and four regarding CR, namely the issue of attending gym or some regular physical exercise program, access to a computer and interest in participating in the study. The medical history and data, of each subject, were collected and/or checked in the clinical process.

The participants were enclosed in a quiet environment with good lighting, no sound or visual distractions and with all the commodities necessary to perform the tests. A Samsung chronometer was used for time account. At M0, the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) was used as a brief and practical method to perform a primary cognitive screening, as it is an instrument which assesses different cognitive domains (attention and concentration, executive functions, memory, language, visuoconstructive abilities, conceptual thinking, calculations and orientation) [33]. The MoCA score is calculated by summing the points of the completed tasks successfully, in a range from 0 to 30 points [33]. According to Freitas et al. [33] this test, adapted to the Portuguese population, shows an internal consistency of Cronbach's $\alpha=.94$. At M0, M1 and M2, to assess executive function, one of the variables under study, specifically the ability to switch information, working memory and selective attention and conflict resolution ability were used the Trail Making Test (TMT), the Verbal Digit Span (VDS) test and the Stroop test, respectively.

With respect to TMT, the intra-observer reliability was good in the present pilot-study (ICC=0.63) [34]. The TMT is a neuropsychological test to assess the ability to switch information [5,7,35,36], individual's ability to switch between different tasks, or even between different elements of the same task, in order to test cognitive flexibility [7,8]. It is divided into two parts: TMT-A, in which participant connects 25 circles numbered from 1 to 25, and TMT-B, in which participant connects circles numbered from 1 to 13 alternating with letters from A to L [5,7,35,36]. The final score of each part depends on the time spent in the completion of the test [36]. The total score was calculated by subtracting part B score from part A score, considering that the lower the score is, the bigger will be the capacity to switch information and so the cognitive flexibility of the participant [37].

Afterwards, the VDS test was used. This test is an instrument related to the working memory's central executive component, a process that allows to preserve the information required for a particular instant and remember it in the short term [38–40] and update replacing old information and not relevant by most recent and relevant [7,41]. The intra-observer reliability showed by this test in the present pilot study was good (ICC = 0.71) [34]. It is divided into two parts: VDS-Forward test, in which participant has to say sequences of numbers in the normal digit order, and VDS-Backward test, in which participant has to say sequence of numbers in the inverse order. A score is attributed to each correct sequence; the maximum score for each part, VDS-Forward test and VDS-Backward test, is 14, and the minimum score is 0 [39]. The different scores of the two parts are used to calculate the total score of executive function's working memory, by subtracting the second part from the first part, knowing that the lower the difference between the results is, the better will be the performance of the participant [39].

Lastly, the Stroop test, was applied. This is a neuropsychological test aimed at assessing selective attention and conflict resolution ability [40], the monitoring of information relevant to

the task you want to perform, ability to suppress a dominant or automatic response, when this proves inadequate, focusing the attention on what really intended and inhibiting another competitor information [7,8]. According to Esgalhado et al. [42] this is adapted to the Portuguese population with an internal consistency of Cronbach's $\alpha = .873$. The intra-observer reliability observed for this test in the present pilot study was good (ICC=0.71) [34]. The score of this test is obtained from the number, in 45seconds for each, of words (W) read on a page with 100 words with colour names (red, green, blue) printed in black ink; number of colours (C) listed on a page with 100 crosses printed in colours (red, green and blue); and number of items (colours) listed (PC) on a page with 100 words with colour names, but the name of the colour does not match with the colour in which the word is written. The total score was obtained by subtracting PC from PC0 (estimated score: $PC' = P \times C/P + C$) [43]. The higher the total score is, the better will be the selective attention and conflict resolution ability [43].

At M0, M1 and M2 each participant completed, in self-administration, the MacNew questionnaire for the assessment of quality of life, as well as the Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale 21 (DASS 21). According to Leal [44] and Tavares et al. [45], the MacNew Heart Disease Health-related Quality of Life questionnaire, validated to the Portuguese population and with a high internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .93$), was used to assess the quality of life related to the health condition upon heart disease, and comprises physical, emotional and social dimensions.

The MacNew total score is calculated using the mean of all items, while the score of each dimension is calculated by the mean of the respective items [44,45]. The intra-observer reliability perceived in the present pilot-study was excellent (ICC = 0.87) [34].

The DASS 21 covers three dimensions – depression, anxiety and stress. The total score is calculated by summing the scores obtained in each dimension [46]. The intra-observer reliability in the present pilot-study was excellent (ICC = 0.90) [34]. According to Pais-Ribeiro et al. [46], in this instrument validated to the Portuguese population, the three dimensions must be assessed separately, being the internal consistency .85 for the depression dimension, .74 for the anxiety dimension and .81 for the stress dimension (Cronbach's α).

Statistics

Assuming a power of 80% with a 5% significance level, considering the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) test, the power calculation revealed a training effect of 0.76 and 0.72 on the Stroop test total score indicating a need for 21 and 24 participants to ensure statistical power to detect differences between the three groups in the variable difference M1-M2 and M0-M2, respectively.

The statistical analysis was accomplished using the IBM SPSS 22 software (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY) for Windows, with a significance level of .05 and a confidence interval of 95% [47].

The sample was characterized using descriptive statistics. In M0, in the variables of the sample characterization, whenever the distribution was normal, the one-way ANOVA test was used for the rational and nominal variables, and whenever the distribution was not normal, the Kruskal–Wallis test and the Fisher test for independent samples were used for the rational and nominal variables, respectively. The *t* test for independent samples was used to compare adherence rates between the intervention groups, since the variable followed the normal pattern [47].

In the intra-group analysis of the TMT, VDS test and Stroop test total scores, to compare M0, M1 and M2, the ANOVA test for repeated measures and the Bonferroni post hoc test were used, since the variables followed the normal pattern. In the intra-group analysis of the MacNew questionnaire and DASS 21 total scores and dimensions, to compare the M0, M1 and M2, the ANOVA test for repeated measures and the Bonferroni post hoc test or the Friedman test and the Dunn post hoc test were used, respectively, in case the distribution was normal or not [47].

In the inter-group analysis for the VDS test and Stroop test total scores, in the several moments (M0, M1 and M2) and in the variable difference between the different assessment moments (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2), and for the TMT total score in M0 were used the one-way ANOVA test and the Tukey post hoc test since the variables followed a normal pattern. For the TMT total score, M1 and M2 and the variable difference between the different assessment moments (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2), the *t* test for independent samples was used for the analysis between two groups since the variables followed a normal pattern. In the inter-group analysis for the MacNew questionnaire and DASS 21, total scores and dimensions, in the several moments (M0, M1 and M2) and in the variable difference between the different assessment moments (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2), whenever the distribution was normal, the one-way ANOVA test and the Tukey post hoc test were used, and whenever the distribution was not normal the Kruskal–Wallis test and the Dunn post hoc test were used. In the inter-group analysis of the dimension depression of the DASS 21, in M1, M2 and variable difference (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2), were used the *t* test for independent samples and the Mann–Whitney test for the analysis between two groups in case the distribution was normal or not, respectively [47].

Results

According to Vieira et al. [22], the final sample was composed of 33 subjects, all men. At M0, in the MoCA, seven participants from IG1 were below the normal value (26), whereas in IG2 and CG this was true for every participant. According to Table 3, at M0, the most frequent cardiovascular risk factors were Dyslipidemia, Hypertension and Smoking in all three groups and Obesity in CG, most of the participants were taking Blood Platelet Antiaggregant, Beta blockers and Statins and, in the three groups, the vast majority of subjects presented low cardiovascular risk.

According to Vieira et al. [22], at M0, no significant differences were found between the three groups ($p > .05$) in the sample characteristics (demographic and clinical characteristics, MoCA and medication) (Table 3). According to Vieira et al. [22], no significant differences were also found between the three groups ($p > .05$) in the medication change throughout the study.

Table 3. Sample characteristics in M0. According to Vieira et al. [21,22].

Variable		IG1 (n=11)	IG2 (n=11)	CG (n=11)
Age (years)		55 ± 9.0	59 ± 11.3	59 ± 5.8
MoCA		25.0 ± 1.7	23.2 ± 3.5	24.5 ± 1.4
Professional situation	Active	7 (64%)	2 (1%)	5 (45%)
	Inactive	4 (36%)	9 (82%)	6 (55%)
Reason for hospitalization	ACS without ST elevation	6 (55%)	6 (55%)	5 (45%)
	ACS with ST elevation	5 (45%)	3 (27%)	6 (55%)
	Stable Angina <i>Pectoris</i> and post-angioplasty	0	2 (18%)	0
Cardiovascular Risk factors	Dyslipidemia	10 (91%)	9 (82%)	8 (73%)
	Obesity	2 (18%)	2 (18%)	4 (36%)
	Diabetes Mellitus	2 (18%)	3 (27%)	1 (9%)
	Hypertension	5 (45%)	6 (55%)	8 (73%)
	Smoking	5 (45%)	5 (45%)	4 (36%)
	Family history	1 (9%)	1 (9%)	2 (18%)
Pharmacology	Blood platelet antiaggregants	9 (82%)	11 (100%)	10 (91%)
	Beta blockers	8 (73%)	9 (82%)	8 (73%)
	Statins	9 (82%)	11 (100%)	11 (100%)
	Antihypertensive drugs	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	6 (55%)
	Vasodilators	1 (9%)	3 (27%)	5 (45%)
	Calcium channel blockers	0	1 (9%)	1 (9%)
Cardiovascular Risk	Low	7 (64%)	7 (64%)	8 (73%)
	Moderate	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	3 (27%)

ACS: acute coronary syndrome; CG: control group; IG1: intervention group 1; IG2: intervention group 2; MoCA: Montreal Cognitive Assessment.

Data are expressed as mean values and standard deviation or n (%). The cardiovascular risk was classified according to Pescatello et al. [27].

According to Vieira et al. [21,22] concerning the percentage of subjects adhering to the program, for three sessions a week, IG1 presented a mean of 82% in the first three months and 70% in the last three, with a mean of 77% over the six-month period. According to Vieira et al. [22], IG2 presented a mean of 90% in the first three months and 75% in the last three, with a mean of 83% for the whole six months. According to Vieira et al. [22], no significant differences were found between the two groups.

For all the variables under study, no significant differences were found between the three groups at M0, except in the total score of the TMT ($F=7.255$, $p=.003$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=.027$) and IG2 and CG ($p=.003$) (Table 4), as well as in the dimension depression of the DASS 21 ($F=5.133$, $p=.013$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=.012$) (Table 8). These variables, between these groups, were not subjected to subsequent analyses.

With regard to intra-group analysis in the TMT total score (ability to switch information), some significant differences were observed in the analysis to IG2 ($F=5.730$, $p=.011$), with a significant decrease from M0 to M1 ($p=.042$) and M0 to M2 ($p=.033$), representing an increase in the ability to switch information.

In the intra-group analyses of the VDS test total score (working memory), no significant differences were found however, in the intra-group analysis of the Stroop test total score it was possible to observe significant differences in IG1 ($F=5.491$, $p=.013$), with a significant increase from M1 to M2 ($p=.009$) representing an increase in the selective attention and conflict resolution ability.

Still in the intra-group analyses, in the Macnew questionnaire to assess quality of life, IG1 showed significant differences in its total score ($X^2=6.889$, $p=.032$), with a significant increase from M0 to M2 ($p=.042$), meaning an increase in quality of life. IG2 presented some significant differences in the emotional ($F=4.278$, $p=.028$) and social dimensions ($F=5.752$, $p=.011$), with a significant increase from M0 to M1 ($p=0.010$ and $p=.023$, respectively). Finally, as far as the DASS 21 is concerned, to assess depression, anxiety, and stress, no significant differences were observed in any dimension or total score in the intra-group analyses.

Regarding the inter-group analyses, as stated above, in relation to the TMT total score (ability to switch information) there were significant differences between the groups at M0, not being equal in terms of comparison. The only comparable groups were IG1 with CG however, no significant differences were found in their analyses in the remaining moments (Table 4). Also in the analysis of the variable difference (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2) of the TMT total score, there were no significant differences between the comparable groups.

Table 4. Inter-group analysis at different moments of the TMT total score.

Variable	Group	M0 X±SD	M1 X±SD	M2 X±SD
TMT total score	IG1	64.9 ± 29.0 (n=11)	51.1 ± 15.2 (n=11)	44.5 ± 17.1 (n=11)
	IG2	105.5 ± 41.7 (n=11)	-	-
	CG	51.2 ± 32.3 (n=11)	47.4 ± 17.8 (n=10)	53.0 ± 29.8 (n=11)
	<i>F</i>	7.255	NS	NS
	<i>p</i>	0.003 ^a		
	Post hoc	IG1 < IG2 <i>p</i> =.027 ^b IG2 > CG <i>p</i> =.003 ^b		

CG: control group; IG1: intervention group 1; IG2: intervention group 2; M0: baseline/initial moment; M1: intermediate moment (3 months); M2: final moment (6 months); NS: non-significant; TMT: Trail Making Test.

Data are presented as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD).

^a *p* Values with the ANOVA test;

^b *p* Values for Tukey's post hoc test.

In the VDS test total score (working memory), no significant differences were found in the analysis between the three groups in the different moments (Table 5). In the analysis of the variable difference (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2) of the VDS test total score, there were also no significant differences between the three groups.

Table 5. Inter-group analysis at different moments of the VDS test total score.

Variable	Group	M0 X±SD	M1 X±SD	M2 X±SD
VDS test total score	IG1	1.9 ± 1.3 (n=11)	1.8 ± 1.3 (n=11)	2.2 ± 1.3 (n=11)
	IG2	1.5 ± 1.3 (n=11)	1.6 ± 1.0 (n=11)	1.8 ± 1.0 (n=11)
	CG	2.1 ± 1.1 (n=11)	1.5 ± 1.8 (n=10)	1.4 ± 1.1 (n=11)
	<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS

CG: control group; IG1: intervention group 1; IG2: intervention group 2; M0: baseline/initial moment; M1: intermediate moment (3 months); M2: final moment (6 months); NS: non-significant; VDS: Verbal Digit Span.

Data are presented as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD).

The Stroop test total score showed significant differences between the groups in the variable difference M1-M2 ($F= 9.265$, $p=.001$), with a significant increase in IG1 in comparison with IG2 ($p= .001$) and in the variable difference M0-M2 ($F=7.891$, $p=.002$) with a significant increase in IG1 in comparison with CG ($p=.021$) and in comparison with IG2 ($p=.002$) (Table 6), representing an increase in the selective attention and conflict resolution ability in IG1 in comparison with IG2 and CG.

Table 6. Inter-group analysis at different moments and of the variable difference of the Stroop test total score.

Variable	Group	M0 X \pm SD	M1 X \pm SD	M2 X \pm SD	Variable difference		
					M0-M1 X	M1-M2 X	M0-M2 X
Stroop test total score	IG1	- 4.7 \pm 8.8 (n=11)	- 4.0 \pm 7.8 (n=11)	1.7 \pm 7.1 (n=11)	0.7 (n=11)	5.7 (n=11)	6.4 (n=11)
	IG2	2.8 \pm 8.0 (n=11)	3.6 \pm 6.8 (n=11)	- 0.9 \pm 6.8 (n=11)	0.8 (n=11)	-4.5 (n=11)	-3.7 (n=11)
	CG	-1.3 \pm 8.0 (n=11)	-2.6 \pm 8.7 (n=10)	- 2.4 \pm 5.7 (n=11)	-1.9 (n=10)	0.8 (n=10)	-1.1 (n=11)
	<i>F</i>	NS	NS	NS	NS	9.265	7.891
	<i>p</i>					0.001 ^a	0.002 ^a
	Post hoc					IG1 # IG2 $p=.001^b$	IG1 # IG2 $p=.002^b$
							IG1 # CG $p=.021^b$

CG: control group; IG1: intervention group 1; IG2: intervention group 2; M0: baseline/initial moment; M1: intermediate moment (3 months); M2: final moment (6 months); NS, non-significant.

Data are presented as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD).

^a *p* Values with the ANOVA test.

^b *p* Values for Tukey's post hoc test.

Regarding the MacNew questionnaire and DASS 21, no significant differences were found in the analysis between the three groups in any of the dimensions and total scores in the different moments (Tables 7 and table 8, respectively) and in the analysis of the variable difference (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2).

As far as the dimension depression of the DASS 21, there were significant differences between the groups at M0, not being equal in terms of comparison. The only comparable groups were IG1 with CG and IG2 with CG however, no significant differences were found in their analyses in the remaining moments (Table 8). Also in the analysis of the variable difference (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2), of the dimension depression of the DASS 21, there were no significant differences between the comparable groups.

Table 7. Inter-group analysis at different moments of the MacNew questionnaire.

Variable		Group	M0 X±SD	M1 X±SD	M2 X±SD
MacNew questionnaire	Total	IG1	5.7 ± 1.0 (n=11)	6.2 ± 0.5 (n=10)	6.2 ± 0.8 (n=11)
		IG2	5.7 ± 0.7 (n=11)	6.0 ± 0.7 (n=11)	5.8 ± 1.0 (n=11)
		CG	5.9 ± 0.6 (n=11)	5.9 ± 0.9 (n=10)	6.0 ± 0.6 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS
	Physical	IG1	5.7 ± 1.0 (n=11)	6.0 ± 0.8 (n=11)	6.2 ± 0.8 (n=11)
		IG2	5.5 ± 0.9 (n=11)	5.9 ± 0.9 (n=11)	5.7 ± 1.2 (n=11)
		CG	5.8 ± 0.8 (n=11)	5.8 ± 1.1 (n=10)	6.0 ± 0.8 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS
	Emotional	IG1	5.6 ± 0.9 (n=11)	5.8 ± 0.8 (n=11)	6.0 ± 0.9 (n=11)
		IG2	5.4 ± 0.7 (n=11)	5.9 ± 0.8 (n=11)	5.8 ± 1.1 (n=11)
		CG	5.6 ± 0.7 (n=11)	5.6 ± 1.1 (n=10)	5.9 ± 0.8 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS
	Social	IG1	6.2 ± 1.1 (n=11)	6.5 ± 0.6 (n=11)	6.6 ± 0.8 (n=11)
		IG2	6.0 ± 1.0 (n=11)	6.4 ± 0.7 (n=11)	6.1 ± 1.1 (n=11)
		CG	6.5 ± 0.6 (n=11)	6.7 ± 0.3 (n=9)	6.6 ± 0.6 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS

CG: control group; IG1: intervention group 1; IG2: intervention group 2; M0: baseline/initial moment; M1: intermediate moment (3 months); M2: final moment (6 months); NS: non-significant.
Data are presented as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD).

Table 8. Inter-group analysis at different moments of the DASS 21.

Variable		Group	M0 X±SD	M1 X±SD	M2 X±SD
DASS 21	Total	IG1	24.6 ± 29.3 (n=11)	16.0 ± 18.4 (n=11)	15.3 ± 19.8 (n=11)
		IG2	23.2 ± 15.0 (n=10)	17.8 ± 16.2 (n=11)	19.5 ± 20.7 (n=11)
		CG	24.6 ± 17.2 (n=11)	23.6 ± 22.5 (n=10)	21.6 ± 19.7 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS
	Depression	IG1	2.2 ± 2.5 (n=9)	5.3 ± 7.1 (n=11)	2.4 ± 3.6 (n=10)
		IG2	8.6 ± 6.1 (n=10)	5.3 ± 7.1 (n=11)	5.6 ± 6.7 (n=11)
		CG	4.2 ± 3.8 (n=10)	5.8 ± 6.9 (n=10)	5.5 ± 5.4 (n=11)
		F	5.133		
		<i>p</i>	0.013 ^a	NS	NS
		Post-hoc	IG1 < IG2 <i>p</i> =0.012 ^b		
	Anxiety	IG1	2.7 ± 2.0 (n=9)	1.4 ± 2.1 (n=10)	0.9 ± 1.1 (n=9)
		IG2	8.0 ± 9.1 (n=11)	4.7 ± 2.6 (n=11)	5.2 ± 5.6 (n=10)
		CG	6.9 ± 7.4 (n=11)	5.0 ± 5.8 (n=10)	4.4 ± 4.5 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS
	Stress	IG1	11.1 ± 12.0 (n=11)	8.5 ± 9.1 (n=11)	8.2 ± 9.1 (n=11)
		IG2	11.6 ± 11.2 (n=11)	7.8 ± 7.8 (n=11)	8.7 ± 9.3 (n=11)
		CG	12.0 ± 7.6 (n=11)	12.8 ± 12.3 (n=10)	11.8 ± 11.3 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS

CG: control group; DASS 21; Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale 21; IG1: intervention group 1; IG2: intervention group 2; M0: baseline/initial moment; M1: intermediate moment (3 months); M2: final moment (6 months); NS: non-significant.

Data are presented as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD).

^a *p* values with the ANOVA test.

^b *p* values for Tukey post hoc test.

It should be highlighted that, in the Stroop test and DASS 21, in the three groups and at the different moments, sometimes in the case of the DASS 21 and always in the Stroop test, the standard deviation was superior to the mean, presumably due to the expected interpersonal variability, taking into account the target variables of the analysis.

Discussion

The results of this study suggest that, in this sample, the integration in a specific exercise program at the phase III of CR based on the use of virtual reality exercise with the Kinect resulted in improvements in executive function, specifically in the selective attention and conflict resolution ability. These results highlight the virtual reality technology, but also the importance of performing the phase III of CR not only with the goal of keeping the results obtained in phase II. The Kinect, and so the virtual reality exercise, can be a tool to explore in CR. According to Chang et al. [20], the Kinect is cheap, easy to configure and can be used in home environments, so this accessibility can facilitate rehabilitation. Kim et al. [48] has noted that there are several recent studies that have pointed out that the CR programs work in reducing the decline of executive function. Thus justified the importance of assessing this variable in a CR context and in particular in phase III, in order to evaluate the potential of this phase in executive function.

Despite the fact that no significant differences were observed between the groups in the results of the TMT total score, the group subjected to the conventional format presented, between the baseline/initial moment and the intermediate moment (3 months) and the baseline/initial and final (6 months) moments of the study, a significant decrease of the score, which means an increase in the ability to switch information and therefore cognitive flexibility, in other words the individual's ability to switch between different tasks, or even between different elements of the same task [7,8]. The total score of the VDS test, which assesses the working memory, a process that allows to preserve the information required for a particular instant and remember it in the short term [38–40] and update replacing old information and not relevant by most recent and relevant [7,41] did not reveal significant differences, which means that this component of executive function was not influenced by the physical exercise, at least within this sample and with this exercise program.

Concerning the selective attention and conflict resolution ability, the ability of focusing the attention on what really intended and inhibiting another competitor information [7,8] assessed by the Stroop test total score, the group inserted in the virtual reality format registered significant improvements in the last 3 months with significant improvements when compared with the CG, between the baseline/initial and final (6 months) moments of the study, and conventional format, between intermediate (3 months) and final (6 months) moments and the

baseline/initial and final (6 months) moments of the study. This evincing a higher resistance of the participants to interference, and therefore better selective attention and conflict resolution ability, as stated by Esgalhado et al. [43]. The inhibition is fundamental for conflict management, as it blocks irrelevant information that obstructs the attention process [49].

The MoCA, used in this study as a primary cognitive screening, can prove the importance of using instruments to assess executive function in this sample, since the mean score at the baseline/initial moment, in the three groups, was lower than 26, which is considered the normal value [33]. According to Kramer et al. [50], moderate levels of physical activity are beneficial to the cognitive processes in middle-aged and elderly subjects. This proves the importance of implementing this type of programs in the phase III of CR, especially considering that this phase focuses, according to Piepoli et al. [3], on a long-term approach. As has been said previously, physical exercise can explain the results obtained, by the evolution through neovascularization and creation of new synaptic networks, where a trophic effect is developed in the brain areas responsible for the sensory and motor function, and also by the optimization of the neurotransmitter function [1,4,40] and increase of vascular plasticity [12].

As for the quality of life, and depression, anxiety and stress, it is possible that the obtained results might not have been influenced by other variables which can affect as the professional situation and cardiovascular risk factors, since the groups were comparable at the beginning of the study [14].

As far as the MacNew questionnaire is concerned (quality of life and its relationship with health in heart disease), no differences were found between the three groups; however, the group assigned to the virtual reality format presented significant improvements in its total score between the baseline/initial and final (6 months) moments of the study, and the group assigned to the conventional format presented, only in the first 3 months, significant improvements in the emotional and social dimensions. In the MacNew total score, the group assigned to the virtual reality format, between the baseline/initial and final (6 months) moments of the study, according to the mean values, presented a clinically significant variation (a minimum variation of 0.5) [51]. A study conducted by Bocalini et al. [52] showed that there are significant differences between the groups, considering that the group subjected to physical exercise registered higher values in the physical, emotional and social dimensions, in this order, whereas in this study the order was social, physical and emotional. According to the American Heart Association Exercise/American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, one of the objectives of the phase II is emotional well-being [53] therefore, the results observed can be due to the fact that the participants, in the phase III, were getting back to normal life after the phase II.

Regarding the DASS 21, despite the fact that there were no significant differences observed between the groups in the results, it should be mentioned that, in the mean values for all the

dimensions and total score, there was an improvement from the beginning up to the end (6 months) of the study in both IGs, even if it was not significant. According to Whooley et al. [54], the association between depression and cardiovascular disease is complex however, the low level of physical activity is considered a key factor. This justified the importance of evaluating these parameters. According to Bettencourt et al. [55], regardless of the differences in the exercise capacity, patients with coronary artery disease who were integrated in a CR program presented improvements in their anxiety and depression levels. In this way, phase III can act as a tool to preserve these benefits however, the results were not significant in this study.

According to Vieira et al. [22] in this sample, throughout the study/program, the mean adherence was greater than 65% in both formats [31], taking into account the three sessions a week, in the first and last 3 months as well as a mean of the 6 months, however, according to Vieira et al. [22], there was a decrease in the last three months. According to Vieira et al. [22], no significant differences were found between the groups, what proves that the adherence rate did not influence the results.

The reduced size of the sample can be referred as a limitation of this study, as well as the difficulty to monitor the adherence to the exercise program objectively. For further studies, we suggest the study of the motivation strategies for the practice of physical exercise, identifying the main triggers for adherence. Age stratification could also be considered, as well as the conducting this type of study with both sexes in the phase II of CR, considering the scholary level. We also suggest the alliance with other specialized fields for conducting these studies, namely Psychology and the study of other virtual reality instruments. Finally, it would be important in further studies to study the relationship between executive function and quality of life and anxiety, depression and stress, analysing the impact between them.

Conclusions

In this sample, composed of subjects with coronary artery disease, the prescribed specific exercise program, performed over a sixmonth period in a home context, in the phase III of CR, resulted in improvements in executive function, specifically in the selective attention and conflict resolution ability for the group assigned to the virtual reality format when compared with the CG and conventional format. Therefore, considering the benefits verified, when approaching CR, especially when it comprises the use of virtual reality exercise with the Kinect, we believe that the assessment of executive function should be taken into consideration, being the virtual reality a tool to explore in a CR context. This study also reveals the importance of exploring and carrying out the phase III of CR.

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CAPÍTULO VI

**Virtual reality on a home-based
maintenance phase cardiac
rehabilitation programme, effect on
balance and kyphotic index: a
randomized controlled trial**

(Estudo IV)

Estudo IV

Virtual reality on a home-based maintenance phase cardiac rehabilitation programme, effect on balance and kyphotic index: a randomized controlled trial

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Abstract

Objective: To analyse the effect of a six-month home-based maintenance phase cardiac rehabilitation specific exercise programme, performed in a virtual reality (Kinect) or conventional (booklet) environment on balance and kyphotic index of subjects with coronary artery disease. **Approach:** A randomized controlled trial was conducted with subjects from a hospital in Porto, Portugal, who had completed the training phase of cardiac rehabilitation. Subjects were randomly assigned to either intervention group 1 (IG1), whose programme encompassed the use of Kinect (n=11); or intervention group 2 (IG2), a paper booklet (n=11); or a control group (CG), only subjected to the usual care (n=11). The three groups received education on cardiovascular risk factors. At baseline, 3 and 6 months was measured the balance, static (One-Leg-Standing Test) and dynamic (Star Excursion Balance Test), and the kyphotic index (Flexicurve). Descriptive and inferential statistical measures were used, significance level of 0.05. **Main results:** In the dynamic balance, in comparison with the CG, IG1 showed significant improvements in the right leg in anterolateral direction after 3 months ($p=0.036$) and medial between the third and sixth month ($p=0.015$), as well as in the left leg in the anterior after 6 months ($p=0.031$) and between the third and sixth month ($p=0.049$), lateral after 3 months ($p=0.033$), and posterior ($p=0.041$) and medial ($p=0.014$) between the third and sixth month. The IG2 showed significant improvements, at the left leg, in the posteromedial and anteromedial directions between the third and sixth month ($p=0.002$, $p=0.018$, respectively), and the baseline and the sixth month ($p=0.003$, $p=0.002$, respectively). In the kyphotic index, IG1, in comparison with the CG, presented significant improvements, between the baseline and the sixth month ($p=0.041$). **Significance:** The virtual reality format showed some benefits in the dynamic balance and benefits in the kyphotic index, whereas the conventional showed only some benefits in the dynamic balance.

Keywords

Cardiac rehabilitation; virtual reality; kinect; balance; kyphotic index

1. Introduction

Cardiovascular diseases, which include coronary artery disease, are multifactorial diseases resulting from a complex interaction between genetic and environmental factors (Park *et al* 2010). In coronary artery disease, muscle contraction might be hindered by a lack of oxygen, as a result of a possible reduction in the flow, thus inducing a resort to anaerobiosis (Peel 1996, Dean 1997, Iglézias *et al* 2001). This might destabilize muscle activity, and consequently balance maintenance can also be affected, since muscle activity is essential to maintain

muscular synergies in the body support against gravity and in the feedforward and feedback mechanisms of postural control (Tinetti *et al* 1988, Peel 1996, Dean 1997). In addition to the alterations arising from the coronary artery disease, age is also an aggravating factor, due to the normal ageing process (Choi and Kim 2015).

Some studies suggest the influence of some physical limitations (caused by the natural ageing process and/or a sedentary lifestyle) on balance, namely the increase of the thoracic spine's kyphotic curve; this leads to an anterior shift of the centre of mass being more difficult to maintain the centre of mass inside the support basis (Bandeira *et al* 2010, Katzman *et al* 2010). However, the increase of the thoracic spine's kyphotic curve leads to balance alterations that increase the risk of falls, as well as anomalies in the thoracic wall which reduce its biomechanics, altering the oxygen flow and increasing respiratory work, which, in the long term, can cause respiratory failure (Peel 1996, Dean 1997, Hinman 2004).

In a way to optimize physical, psychological and social well-being, subjects with coronary artery disease are referred to cardiac rehabilitation (CR) programmes that encompass a multidisciplinary approach (Magalhães *et al* 2013, Dunlay *et al* 2014). The CR, by promoting an active lifestyle directing the subject to social reintegration, is an essential part of the management of coronary artery disease (Magalhães *et al* 2013, Rawstorn *et al* 2016), being part of the international recommendation guidelines (Dalal *et al* 2015). The maintenance phase, the last one of CR, focuses on long-term prevention, representing long-term outpatient supervision of patient adherence to prescribed lifestyle (Piopoli *et al* 2015).

According to Goel *et al* (2010), balance limitations are common in subjects enrolled in early outpatient CR (training phase), particularly in women and patients > 65 years, being that the study of Nazari *et al* (2014) indicates that CR after coronary artery bypass surgery causes significant increase in balance, static and dynamic. Physical exercise is an essential strategy to minimize the negative changes of aging (Bandeira *et al* 2010), being balance and posture positively influenced by physical exercise (Börjesson *et al* 2010). In this way, the same benefits observed in the training phase can possibly be obtained and/or maintained in the next and last phase of CR, the maintenance phase. In Europe, participation rates of CR feature one of the various challenges and opportunities for future research, together with the evaluation of long-term results (Humphrey *et al* 2014), what validates the relevance of the study of the maintenance phase.

One way for the implementation of CR programmes is the home context, the home-based CR programmes (Dalal *et al* 2015), being that a very interesting hypothesis to the maintenance phase. According to Piepoli *et al* (2016) CR in home context is a promise to increase the participation and support of behavioural change. Moreover, the resort to technology, such as the internet and mobile phones, has been suggested as a possible important tool in CR (Dalal *et al* 2015). Information and communication technologies can be an alternative to the CR

programmes in home context (Rawstorn *et al* 2016). In addition, the possibility of using new technologies and virtual reality settings (such as the Kinect of Microsoft) as working tools seems appropriate, enabling the development of new strategies. According to Dahl-Popolizio *et al* (2014), in rehabilitation, speaking in a general way, virtual exercise programmes are becoming more and more popular.

For all the aforementioned reasons, considering the potential of virtual reality using Kinect, the implications on balance and kyphotic index, as well as the potential of the maintenance phase taking into account the home context, it became imperative to conduct this study, aimed at analysing the effect of a specific exercise programme which was designed to be performed at home context during the maintenance phase of CR, over a six-month period. The study compared a virtual reality format (Kinect), a conventional format (booklet) and a control group (CG) (usual care) and measured changes in balance and kyphotic index, for subjects with coronary artery disease.

2. Methods

This study is part of a global project and, in the same, is presented a similar methodology to that previously published in Vieira *et al* (2017a, b) and later supplemented in Vieira *et al* (2017c), duly referenced throughout the present study.

2.1. Study design

This study is a randomized controlled trial, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), using a three arm, parallel group over a 23-month period.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), the study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the *Centro Hospitalar do Porto* (Porto Healthcare Centre in Portugal) –Teaching, Coaching and Research Department – N/REF.^a 212/12 (165-DEFI/157-CES) and by the Ethics Committee of the Health School, Polytechnic Institute of Porto – 1489/2012. According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), all procedures were conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki and, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), the study is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT02753829).

2.2. Sample

According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), the sample was obtained from the *Centro Hospitalar do Porto*. According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), the target population was composed of subjects who had just completed the training phase of CR at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit. According to Vieira *et al* (2017c) the subjects were, by the research coordinator at the end of the training phase, in-person and, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), individually invited to participate in this study. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), the enrolment

and assignment was conducted by the research coordinator, with the support of the responsible of the Unit, according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria (table 1) according to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b).

Table 1. Inclusion/exclusion criteria. The same as Vieira *et al* (2017a, b).

Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subjects of both sexes, aged between 40-75 years; Completed training phase of CR at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit; Coronary artery disease, diagnosed and stabilized, with no unstable angina and complex ventricular arrhythmias (Dalal <i>et al</i> 2007, Dracup <i>et al</i> 2007, Jolly <i>et al</i> 2007, 2009) with or without percutaneous coronary intervention and with a final diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction or stable angina <i>pectoris</i>; Access to a computer with Microsoft Windows 7 (minimum). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heart surgery; Non-completed stress test due to maximum fatigue; Pregnancy or planning to get pregnant; Cardiovascular high risk (Dalal <i>et al</i> 2007, Jolly <i>et al</i> 2007, 2009) according to Pescatello <i>et al</i> (2014); Pacemaker, severe neurological, musculoskeletal or pulmonary diseases, and uncompensated metabolic disorders, reported dementia (Jolly <i>et al</i> 2007, 2009, Pescatello <i>et al</i> 2014), cardiomyopathies and previous cardiorespiratory arrest non-associated with acute myocardial infarction or heart procedures; Significant and uncompensated visual (Jolly <i>et al</i> 2007) and auditory deficits; Uneducated and/or with no fluency in Portuguese; Attending or planning to attend gym or regular physical exercise programmes.

The flow diagram, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b, c), is presented in figure 1. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), the participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups: Intervention group 1 (IG1) – allocated to a home-based CR programme, using a computer and Kinect (virtual reality format) (n=15); Intervention group 2 (IG2) – allocated to a home-based CR programme using a paper booklet (conventional format) (n=15); and a CG, only subjected to the usual care (n=16). According to Vieira *et al* (2017b) a randomization by blocks was used, and an allocation sequence based on a fixed block size of 3 was generated with a computer random number generator by an investigator not involved in the trial.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b) throughout the follow-up, four subjects were excluded from IG1 and, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), from IG2, and five from CG. Therefore, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), the final sample was composed of 33 subjects: IG1 n=11, IG2 n=11 and CG n=11.

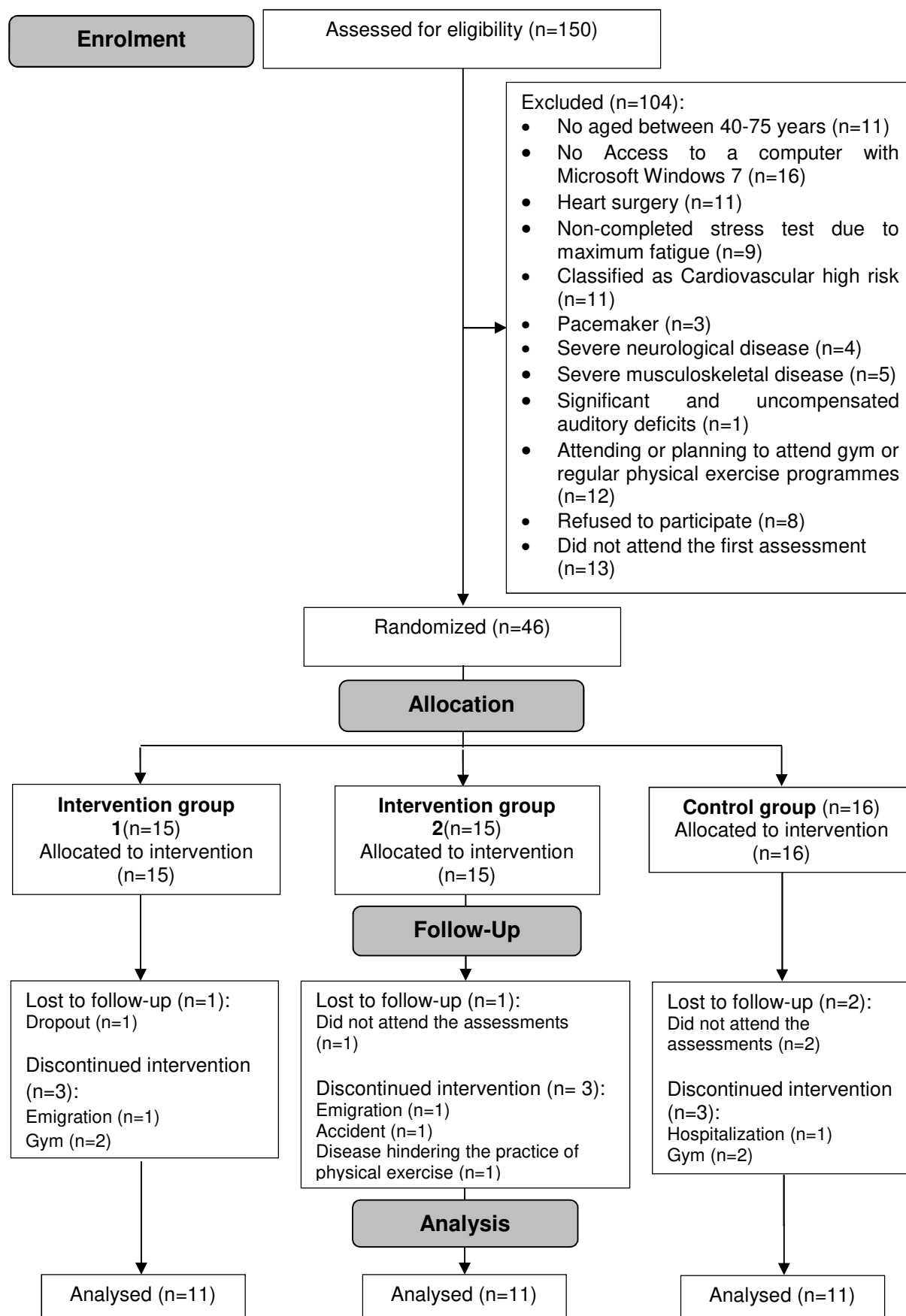


Figure 1. Flow diagram of patients (assessed for eligibility n=150). The same as Vieira *et al* (2017c) and according to Vieira *et al* (2017b).

2.2. Intervention

According to Vieira *et al* (2017c), all participants of the three groups received education on cardiovascular risk factors; the intervention groups had also access to a specific exercise programme, performed with the virtual reality (Kinect), IG1, or a paper booklet, IG2. According to Vieira *et al* (2017c), the teaching process and in-person follow-up took place at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit, Health School of Porto and/or participant's home.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017b) were first delivered pamphlets, to all participants of the three groups, with information on the risk factors for cardiovascular disease, which focused on eating habits, smoking and physical activity; the pamphlets were presented and questions regarding the pamphlets were answered. A leaflet with a brief presentation of the study, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), was also distributed. With regard to the intervention groups, according to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), before moving on to the exercise protocol and respective instructions, the subjects attended three classes of teaching and demonstration (namely regarding the preparation of home space), with at least a one-day break between them (Jolly *et al* 2007, 2009). IG1, according to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), was also taught on how to use Kinect.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b) the heart rate (HR) training, for each participant, was determined using the Karnoven's formula, with the HR reserve, based on the maximum HR of the stress test and obtaining the basal HR with the participant in a sitting and relaxed position. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), a Polar Wearlink Coded cardiofrequencímetro, model FT7 with watch, with an excellent precision (error of $\pm 1\%$ or $\pm 1\text{bpm}$) (Vanderlei *et al* 2009) was used to determine the HR training, as well as the number of repetitions.

The exercise protocol, performed for the intervention groups, according to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b) was adapted to the characteristics of the home context in the form of a self-monitoring system, presenting two progressive levels, so as to meet the principles of overcharge, specificity and reversibility, being performed at moderate intensity, at level 1 of the exercise protocol the exercise intensity was 65% of the HR reserve (Vogels *et al* 2003, Pescatello *et al* 2014). According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), three months passed, participants moved to level 2, with an intensity of 70% HR reserve (Vogels *et al* 2003, Pescatello *et al* 2014). According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), exercise progression was made by increasing the number of repetitions, series and/or with modifications in the way how the exercise was performed.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), the exercise intensity and the number of repetitions were also monitored with the Borg scale of perceived exertion (ratings between 6 and 20), so as to achieve an interval between 12 and 13 (Vogels *et al* 2003, Jolly *et al* 2009, Pescatello *et al* 2014). According to Vieira *et al* (2017b) the scale presents a criterion validity of $r=0.62$ when compared with HR and $r=0.64$ when compared with VO_2^{max} (Chen *et al* 2002). According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b) the exercise protocol was performed three times a week (Börjesson *et*

et al 2010) over six months (Jolly *et al* 2007, 2009), in the most suitable time for each participant. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b) in addition, in the remaining days, a daily walk of 30 minutes was recommended (Börjesson *et al* 2010).

According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b) the exercise protocol (table 2), designed by a certified expert in Physical Therapy with 5 years of experience in the field and adapted from Noites *et al* (2015), was made up of 10 exercises: a warm up exercise; seven exercises of conditioning workout aimed at enhancing cardiorespiratory and muscular endurance and/or strength, and two exercises to increase limb flexibility. Additionally, according to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), exercises 1, 4, 6 and 7 were also aimed at improving balance, as well as exercise 5 and progression of exercise 3 were aimed at improving thoracic curve.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), IG2 performed the home-based programme with paper booklets for consultation. According to Vieira *et al* (2017c), IG1's programme included the use of virtual reality, according to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b) with the use of Kinect (Microsoft) and a computer, having the system been installed at each participant's home. According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), the *Kinect-RehabPlay* project, developed in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto (Soares *et al* 2013), relies on software to monitor and evaluate the rehabilitation exercises, which have to be performed by the user and captured by the Kinect sensor, providing him/her with real-time feedback about the given challenge (Soares *et al* 2013). According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), this system provides a virtual physical therapist performing the exercise and providing indications concerning the quality of execution, being the participant also represented as a second avatar, which interactively follows the physical therapist (Soares *et al* 2013). According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), the software uses the Microsoft Kinect to track individual movement and making a match with a pre-defined pattern; this feature monitored the number of repetitions for each exercise, according to the pre-calculated value, and set it to the individual exercise profile, being the same referenced in the programme along with the respective exercise.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017a), the exercises to be performed are presented in a graphical form to encourage the user to continue with the exercises, but also to demonstrate how to perform them, being the virtual environment in which it takes place an important part of the *Kinect-RehabPlay* system (Soares *et al* 2013), offering the system visual and audio instructions.

Throughout the study, the subjects in IG1 and IG2, according to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b) added, during the sessions, the HR values, Borg rating and eventual comments on an 'Exercise Diary' and in this way proving their assiduity to the exercises and so their adherence to the programme. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), adherence percentage was so defined as the number of sessions attended, according to the registration in the 'Exercise Diary', divided by the total number of sessions prescribed (three sessions a week during six months).

Table 2. Presentation of the exercise protocol. The same as Vieira *et al* (2017a, b).

Session phase		Exercise	Description
Warm up 10 minutes		1- Marching in place	Hip flexion, below the waist level, with flexion of the contralateral glenohumeral joint, always in the same place. After 3 months perform hip flexion up to the waist level.
Workout	Strength 20–25 minutes (to each individual repetitions calculated by 65–70% of the heart rate reserve)	2- Squats	With feet shoulder width apart, perform knee flexion, without going over the toes, with bilateral flexion of the glenohumeral joint to 90°. After 3 months perform two series with a 1 minute break.
		3- Crossing	Keep marching in place throughout the exercise; perform the first proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation diagonal for bilateral upper limb flexion (glenohumeral flexion, adduction and external rotation). After 3 months perform two series with a 1 minute break the second proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation diagonal for bilateral upper limb flexion (glenohumeral flexion, abduction and external rotation).
		4 - Ankle movement	Dorsiflexion/plantar flexion of the ankles while standing. After 3 months perform two series with a 1 minute break.
		5 - Backward movements of the arms	Keep marching in place throughout the exercise; perform extension, abduction and external rotation of the glenohumeral for the complete range. At the end of the movement forcefully increase range of movement 10 times. After 3 months perform two series with a 1 minute break.
		6 - Sit and stand	Sitting in a chair with the upper limbs crossed over the chest. Sitting should be performed in a controlled movement. After 3 months cut down seat height.
		7 - Step forward, sideways and backward	Perform forward and backward half-step with bilateral upper limb flexion, and sideways half-step with bilateral upper limb abduction and external rotation. After 3 months perform two series with a 1 minute break.
	Endurance 35–45 minutes (to each individual repetitions calculated by 65–70% of the heart rate reserve)	8 – Walk (30 minutes)	After 3 months, if possible, increase to 60 minutes.
Stretching 6 minutes		9 - Calf muscle stretching	Stretch the triceps surae 4 repetitions/ maintain 15 seconds
		10 - Anterior forearm muscle stretching	Stretch the wrist flexors 4 repetitions/ maintain 15 seconds

According to Vieira *et al* (2017c), the registration of the HR training and Borg rating, at home during the sessions, worked as a way of monitoring; the participants assessed the HR with the aid of a cardiofrequencímetro, that they had voluntarily acquired, or with manual measurement previously taught.

According to Vieira *et al*. (2017c), the CG was only subjected to the usual care. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), equal to what happened with the intervention groups, they also received education on cardiovascular risk factors, having being the daily walks also encouraged.

For the three groups, according to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), phone contacts were scheduled for the weeks 4, 10 and 22, as well as, for the intervention groups, home visits or in-person meetings (aimed at reevaluating and readjusting the exercises) for weeks 6 and 18 (Jolly *et al* 2007, 2009). According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), e-mails and/or phone messages, were sent for the participants of the intervention groups, on a weekly basis, emphasizing the importance of adhering to the programme.

2.3. Data Collection

According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), a pilot study was conducted among 10 subjects whose characteristics resembled the ones from the target population, with the aim of assessing the feasibility of the exercises, the reliability of the instruments and to improve the time management of data collections.

The assessment of the study for the three groups, according to and adapted from Vieira *et al* (2017b), encompassed three moments: a baseline/initial moment (M0), right after the termination of the training phase and before the beginning of the programme; an intermediate moment (M1), three months after the beginning of the programme; and a final moment (M2), six months after the beginning of the programme, being present in figure 2 the time management of the study and respective data collections with the instruments. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), data collection took place at the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit and the Health School of Porto.

At M0, the participants, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), filled in a sample selection and characterization questionnaire, made up of personal and demographic questions and questions regarding medical history and CR. According to Vieira *et al* (2017c), the medical history and data, of each subject, were collected and/or checked in the clinical process.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), at M0, was made three measurements of height and considering the mean value. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), to that effect was used an inelastic tape-measure with a precision of 0.1cm to a maximum of 2m (Gogia and Braatz 1986), measured in the final moment of inspiration at tidal volume, during apnea, with the participants in a standing position, barefooted and with their heels, buttocks and posterior side of the head against a wall (Eston and Reilly 2009).

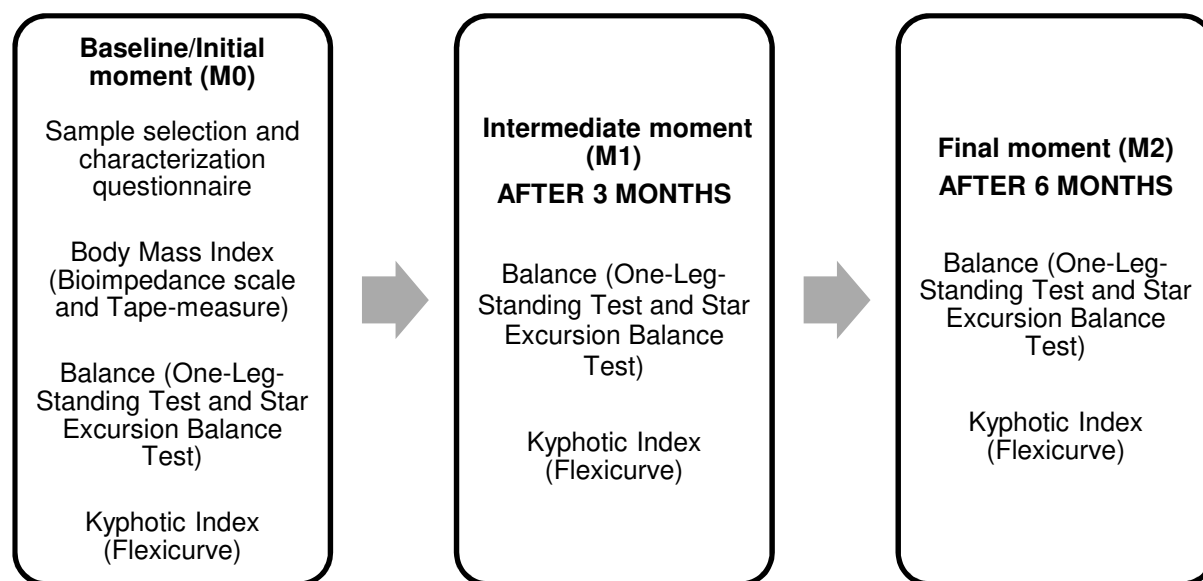


Figure 2. Time management of the study and respective data collections with the instruments.

After that, at M0, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), weight was measured with the Tanita InnerScan bioimpedance scale, model BC-545 TM (EUA) with a capacity of 150 kg and a precision of 0.1 kg for weight, with the participants undressed, barefooted, and with their heels aligned with the electrodes of the platform, with no metallic objects put on (Tanita Corporation). According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), the participants were told to avoid alcohol, caffeine and heavy meals in 24 hours before, urinating half an hour before weighing and not carry out intense physical activity 4 hours before (Eston and Reilly 2009, Tanita Corporation). Weight and height, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), were used to calculate the body mass index = $\frac{\text{Body mass (Kg)}}{\text{Height}^2 \text{ (m)}}$; each participant was classified as having: Normal Weight – 18.5-24.9; Excess weight – 25-29.9; and Obesity – $\geq 30 \text{ Kg/m}^2$ (Pescatello *et al* 2014).

Later, in order to assess the study variables, at M0, M1 and M2, balance tests were performed, with the participants barefooted. Balance was assessed in a static way with the One-Leg-Standing (OLS) Test, a validated tool to assess gait performance and the risk for falls (Springer *et al* 2007). The intraobserver reliability found in the present pilot study was excellent (ICC=0.90) for the lower right limb and good (ICC=0.69) for the lower left limb (Cicchetti and Sparrow 1981). A Samsung chronometer was used to count the time. The participants remained with their eyes open, looking ahead, hands on waist and unipedal stance, with semi-flexed knee and the foot pointing anteriorly to a reference line in the sagittal plane, trying to hit 30 seconds without changing position; the test was made for both lower limbs and ended either after three consecutive attempts for each limb, or when reaching 30 seconds, registering the best value (Giorgetti *et al* 1998, Springer *et al* 2007).

The dynamic balance was assessed with the Star Excursion Balance Test (SEBT), a tool validated for that effect (Gribble *et al* 2012). The intraobserver reliability found in the present pilot study varied between directions and limbs, from good to excellent (ICC between 0.74 and 0.92) (Cicchetti and Sparrow 1981). This was done for both lower limbs, with hands on waist and semi-flexed knee, asking participants to hit the largest possible distance using graduated lines in cm, with the contralateral limb in anterior, anterolateral, lateral, posterolateral, posterior, posteromedial, medial and anteromedial directions (Gribble *et al* 2012); the participants had the opportunity to practice four times for each direction; three consecutive measurements, in each direction, were performed to determine the mean value, which was to be considered. As the participants performed the movement in all directions, touching lightly with the tip of the foot without compromising the balance and without transferring the weight to the lower limb in reach, the foot's position remained unchanged and with no elevation of the calcaneum; in addition, the lower limb that began the movement ended it next to the foot that was standing on the ground. Whenever this didn't occur, the movement for that direction had to be repeated and only then the results were registered (Gribble *et al* 2012).

In order to standardize the values obtained in the SEBT, in each participant, the distance (mean value) achieved in each direction by each limb was divided by the limbs' length. The limb length (minus the ankle), of each participant, was calculated according to Drillis and Contini (1966).

At M0, M1 and M2, the Flexicurve was used to assess the kyphotic index. This instrument consists of a flexible 60 cm ruler (Teixeira and Carvalho 2007) validated to assess thoracic kyphosis, with a criterion validity of $r=0.70$ with the x-ray examination (Greendale *et al* 2011). The intraobserver reliability found in the present pilot study was excellent ($ICC=0.91$) (Cicchetti and Sparrow 1981).

The participants were told to remain relaxed in a standing position, with feet hip-width apart and with no shirt on. After identifying and marking the spinal apophysis at T1 and T12, the Flexicurve was molded to the thoracic column, considering those two time points for the beginning and the end. The ruler's shape was designed in an A3 paper sheet, by the side that was leaned on the column, in order to calculate the kyphotic index, obtained through the formula $Kyphotic\ index = \frac{H}{Lx} \times 100$, in which "Lx" is the length of the line going from T1 to T12 and "H" is the maximum length of the perpendicular line that goes from "Lx" to the thoracic curve line (Caine *et al* 1996, Greendale *et al* 2011).

The bigger the indexes are, the bigger the thoracic kyphosis degrees will be (Caine *et al* 1996, Teixeira and Carvalho 2007).

2.4. Statistics

The statistical analysis was accomplished using the IBM SPSS 22 software (*Statistical Package for the Social Sciences*) for Windows, with a significance level of 0.05 and a confidence interval of 95%. The sample was characterized using descriptive statistics. For the inter-group analysis, in the several moments (M0, M1 and M2) and in the variable difference between the different assessment moments (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2), whenever the distribution was normal, the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) test and the Tukey post-hoc test were used for the rational and nominal variables, and whenever the distribution was not normal, the Kruskal-Wallis test and the Dunn post-hoc test, and the Fisher test for independent samples were used for the rational and nominal variables, respectively (Marôco 2010).

Still for the inter-group analysis, in the analysis between two groups, in the two moments (M1 and M2) and in the variable difference between the different assessment moments (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2), the *t* test for independent samples and the Mann-Whitney test were used in case the variables followed or did not follow a normal pattern, respectively (Marôco 2010).

3. Results

According to Vieira *et al* (2017b) the final sample was composed of 33 subjects, all men. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), at M0, no significant differences were found between the three groups ($p > 0.05$) in the sample characteristics (demographic and clinical characteristics and medication) (table 3); no significant differences were also found between the three groups ($p > 0.05$) in the medication change throughout the study. Also, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), at M0, as far as the body mass index is concerned, the three groups presented values classified as having excess weight of 63.6% in IG1, 45.4% in IG2 and 36.4% in CG.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b), concerning the percentage of subjects adhering to the programme, for three sessions a week, IG1 presented a mean of 82% in the first three months and 70% in the last three, with a mean of 77% over the six-month period. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), IG2 presented a mean of 90% in the first three months and 75% in the last three, with a mean of 83% for the whole six months. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), no significant differences were found between the two groups.

Table 3. Sample characteristics in M0 ^a. According to Vieira *et al* (2017a, b).

Variable		Intervention group 1 (n=11)	Intervention group 2 (n=11)	Control group (n=11)
Age (years)		55 ± 9.0	59 ± 11.3	59 ± 5.8
Body mass index (Kg/m ²)		27.4 ± 3.0	26.9 ± 4.7	28.0 ± 3.6
Professional situation	Active	7 (64%)	2 (18%)	5 (45%)
	Inactive	4 (36%)	9 (82%)	6 (55%)
Reason for hospitalization	Acute coronary syndrome without ST elevation	6 (55%)	6 (55%)	5 (45%)
	Acute coronary syndrome with ST elevation	5 (45%)	3 (27%)	6 (55%)
	Stable Angina <i>Pectoris</i> and post-angioplasty	0	2 (18%)	0
Cardiovascular Risk factors	Dyslipidemia	10 (91%)	9 (82%)	8 (73%)
	Obesity	2 (18%)	2 (18%)	4 (36%)
	Diabetes Mellitus	2 (18%)	3 (27%)	1 (9%)
	Hypertension	5 (45%)	6 (55%)	8 (73%)
	Smoking	5 (45%)	5 (45%)	4 (36%)
	Family history	1 (9%)	1 (9%)	2 (18%)
Pharmacology	Blood platelet antiaggregants	9 (82%)	11 (100%)	10 (91%)
	Beta blockers	8 (73%)	9 (82%)	8 (73%)
	Statins	9 (82%)	11 (100%)	11 (100%)
	Antihypertensive drugs	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	6 (55%)
	Vasodilators	1 (9%)	3 (27%)	5 (45%)
	Calcium channel blockers	0	1 (9%)	1 (9%)
Cardiovascular Risk ^b	Low	7 (64%)	7 (64%)	8 (73%)
	Moderate	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	3 (27%)

^a Data are expressed as mean values and standard deviation or n (%).

^b The cardiovascular risk was classified according to Pescatello *et al* (2014).

Considering the variables under scrutiny, no significant differences were observed at M0 between the 3 groups, except in the SEBT of the right limb in the anterior direction ($F=8.393$, $p=0.001$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=0.002$) and IG1 and CG ($p=0.011$), lateral direction ($F=6.899$, $p=0.003$) between IG1 and CG ($p=0.003$), medial direction ($F=5.631$, $p=0.008$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=0.044$) and IG2 and CG ($p=0.009$), as well as in the anteromedial direction ($F=6.063$, $p=0.006$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=0.005$). In relation to the data of the SEBT for the left limb, it was possible to observe, at M0, significant differences between the groups in the anterior direction ($F=4.104$, $p=0.027$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=0.002$), anterolateral direction ($F=4.198$, $p=0.025$) between IG1 and CG ($p=0.019$), posterior direction ($F=6.562$, $p=0.005$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=0.004$), posteromedial direction ($F=4.334$, $p=0.022$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=0.022$), medial direction ($F=5.542$, $p=0.009$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=0.021$) and between IG2 and CG ($p=0.017$) and in the anteromedial direction

($X^2=7.049$, $p=0.029$) between IG1 and IG2 ($p=0.050$). These variables, between these groups, were not subjected to subsequent analyses.

As far as the OLS test is concerned, static balance, no significant differences were found between the 3 groups, for the two limbs, at different moments (M1 and M2) and variable difference (M0-M1, M1-M2 and M0-M2).

When analyzing the data of the SEBT, dynamic balance, for the right limb, it was possible to observe, as presented in table 4, in the analysis between comparable groups, in the lateral direction significant differences between the groups in the variable difference M1-M2 and M0-M2, with a significant decrease in IG2 in comparison with CG, $t=-3.887$ for $p=0.001$ and $t=-2.673$ for $p=0.015$, respectively. On the other hand, significant differences between the groups were noticed in the medial direction at M1, with a significant decrease in IG1 in comparison with CG ($t=-2.752$, $p=0.013$); however, for the variable difference M1-M2, there was a significant increase in IG1 in comparison with CG ($t=2.838$, $p=0.015$). In the anteromedial direction at M1 there was a significant decrease in IG2 in comparison with CG ($t=-2.348$, $p=0.031$) and in the variable difference M0-M1 a significant decrease in IG1 in comparison with CG ($t=-2.426$, $p=0.033$). In the remaining directions, in which the three groups were comparable at M0, as presented in table 4, there were significant differences between the groups in the anterolateral direction at M1 ($F=3.494$, $p=0.044$) with a significant increase in IG1 in comparison with CG ($p=0.036$). However, in the variable difference M1-M2 there were significant differences between the groups ($F=4.747$, $p=0.016$) with a significant decrease in IG1 in comparison with CG ($p=0.013$).

Table 4. Inter-group analysis at different moments and of the variable difference of the SEBT on the lower right limb ^a.

Variable		Group	M0 X±SD	M1 X±SD	M2 X±SD	Variable difference		
						M0-M1 X	M1-M2 X	M0-M2 X
Star Excursion Balance Test - Right Limb	Antero lateral	IG1	0.92 ± 0.16 (n=11)	0.90 ± 0.14 (n=11)	0.78 ± 0.11 (n=11)	-0.01 (n=11)	-0.13 (n=11)	-0.14 (n=11)
		IG2	0.82 ± 0.88 (n=11)	0.81 ± 0.14 (n=11)	0.77 ± 0.10 (n=11)	-0.01 (n=11)	-0.05 (n=11)	-0.05 (n=11)
		CG	0.79 ± 0.18 (n=11)	0.75 ± 0.13 (n=10)	0.75 ± 0.12 (n=11)	-0.06 (n=10)	0.01 (n=10)	-0.05 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	NS	0.044 ^b	NS	NS	0.016 ^b	NS
		Post-hoc		IG1 > CG <i>p</i> =0.036 ^c			IG1#CG <i>p</i> =0.013 ^c	
	Lateral	IG1	0.92 ± 0.11 (n=11)	0.79 ± 0.25 (n=11)	0.71 ± 0.13 (n=11)	-0.13 (n=11)	-0.08 (n=11)	-0.20 (n=11)
		IG2	0.83 ± 0.11 (n=11)	0.71 ± 0.20 (n=11)	0.66 ± 0.16 (n=11)	-0.12 (n=11)	-0.05 (n=11)	-0.17 (n=11)
		CG	0.67 ± 0.23 (n=11)	0.64 ± 0.13 (n=10)	0.69 ± 0.12 (n=11)	-0.03 (n=10)	0.08 (n=9)	0.02 (n=11)
		<i>p</i>	0.003 ^b	NS	NS	NS	IG2#CG 0.001 ^d	IG2#CG 0.015 ^d
		Post-hoc	IG1 > CG <i>p</i> =0.003 ^c					
	Medial	IG1	0.63 ± 0.20 (n=11)	0.69 ± 0.22 (n=11)	0.94 ± 0.09 (n=11)	0.06 (n=11)	0.25 (n=11)	0.31 (n=11)
		IG2	0.40 ± 0.20 (n=11)	-	-	-	-	-
		CG	0.69 ± 0.23 (n=11)	0.91 ± 0.12 (n=9)	0.90 ± 0.11 (n=11)	0.19 (n=9)	0.01 (n=9)	0.17 (n=10)
		<i>p</i>	0.008 ^b	IG1 < CG 0.013 ^d	NS	NS	IG1#CG 0.015 ^d	NS
		Post-hoc	IG1 > IG2 <i>p</i> =0.044 ^c					
				IG2 < CG <i>p</i> =0.009 ^c				
	Antero medial	IG1	0.83 ± 0.09 (n=11)	0.81 ± 0.07 (n=11)	0.89 ± 0.08 (n=10)	-0.02 (n=11)	0.07 (n=10)	0.06 (n=10)
		IG2	0.69 ± 0.07 (n=11)	0.77 ± 0.12 (n=11)	0.83 ± 0.07 (n=11)	0.09 (n=11)	0.05 (n=11)	0.14 (n=11)

CG	0.77 0.12 (n=11)	0.89 ± 0.09 (n=9)	0.90 ± 0.10 (n=11)	0.06 (n=8)	0.03 (n=9)	0.12 (n=11)
<i>p</i>	0.006 ^b	IG2 < CG 0.031 ^d	NS	IG1#CG 0.033 ^d	NS	NS
Post-hoc	IG1 > IG2 <i>p</i> =0.005 ^c					

^a Data are presented as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD). CG, control group; IG1, intervention group 1; IG2, intervention group 2; M0, baseline/initial moment; M1, intermediate moment (3 months); M2, final moment (6 months); NS, non-significant;

^b *p* Values with the ANOVA test;

^c *p* Values for Tukey's post-hoc test;

^d *p* Values with *t* test for independent samples.

When analyzing the data of the SEBT, dynamic balance, to the left limb, it was possible to observe, as presented in table 5, in the analysis between comparable groups, significant differences between the groups in the anterior direction, with a significant increase in IG1 in comparison with CG at M2 ($t=2.316$, $p=0.031$) and in the variable difference M1-M2 ($t=2.105$, $p=0.049$). Significant differences between the groups could also be seen in the posterior direction, at M1, with a significant decrease in IG2 in comparison with CG ($t=-2.619$, $p=0.018$), in the variable difference M0-M1 with a significant decrease in IG1 in comparison with CG ($t=-2.465$, $p=0.024$), but there was also differences between the groups in variable difference M1-M2 with a significant increase in IG1 in comparison with CG ($t=2.189$, $p=0.041$) and in the posteromedial direction at M1 with a significant decrease in IG2 in comparison with CG ($t=-2.449$, $p=0.024$), but in the variable difference M1-M2 and M0-M2 there was a significant increase in IG2 when compared with GC ($t=3.557$, $p=0.002$ and $t=3.441$, $p=0.003$, respectively).

In the medial direction, significant differences were found between the groups, with a significant decrease in IG1 in comparison with CG at M1 ($t=-3.372$, $p=0.005$) and in the variable difference M0-M1 ($t=-2.210$, $p=0.040$), but, in the variable difference M1-M2, a significant increase in IG1 in comparison with CG ($t=2.718$, $p=0.014$). Lastly, in the anteromedial direction, there were significant differences between the groups in the variable difference M1-M2, with a significant increase in IG2 in comparison with CG ($t=2.839$, $p=0.018$), as well as in the variable difference M0-M2 ($t=3.556$, $p=0.002$).

In the remaining directions, in which the three groups were comparable at M0, as presented in table 5, there were significant differences between the groups at M1 in the lateral direction ($F=3.641$, $p=0.039$) with a significant increase in IG1 in comparison with CG ($p=0.033$).

Table 5. Inter-group analysis at different moments and of the variable difference of the SEBT to the lower left limb ^a.

Variable		Group	M0 X±SD	M1 X±SD	M2 X±SD	Variable difference		
						M0-M1 X	M1-M2 X	M2-M0 X
Star Excursion Balance Test - Left Limb	Anterior	IG1	0.88 ± 0.11 (n=11)	0.84 ± 0.07 (n=11)	0.89 ± 0.07 (n=11)	-0.04 (n=11)	0.05 (n=11)	0.00 (n=11)
		IG2	0.76 ± 0.11 (n=11)	0.79 ± 0.12 (n=11)	0.82 ± 0.06 (n=11)	0.03 (n=11)	0.01 (n=8)	0.06 (n=8)
		CG	0.81 ± 0.09 (n=11)	0.84 ± 0.08 (n=10)	0.80 ± 0.10 (n=11)	0.03 (n=10)	-0.04 (n=10)	-0.01 (n=11)
		p	0.027 ^b	NS	IG1 > CG 0.031 ^d	NS	IG1#CG 0.049 ^d	NS
		Post-hoc	IG1 > IG2 p=0.002 ^c					
	Lateral	IG1	0.81 ± 0.16 (n=11)	0.82 ± 0.16 (n=11)	0.69 ± 0.13 (n=11)	0.01 (n=11)	-0.13 (n=11)	-0.11 (n=11)
		IG2	0.68 ± 0.22 (n=11)	0.68 ± 0.22 (n=11)	0.59 ± 0.21 (n=11)	-0.14 (n=11)	-0.09 (n=11)	-0.22 (n=11)
		CG	0.67 ± 0.25 (n=11)	0.59 ± 0.19 (n=10)	0.58 ± 0.15 (n=11)	-0.11 (n=10)	-0.02 (n=10)	-0.10 (n=11)
		p	NS	0.039 ^b	NS	NS	NS	NS
		Post-hoc	IG1 > CG p=0.033 ^c					
	Posterior	IG1	0.81 ± 0.14 (n=11)	0.82 ± 0.09 (n=11)	0.89 ± 0.15 (n=11)	0.00 (n=11)	0.08 (n=11)	0.08 (n=11)
		IG2	0.57 ± 0.11 (n=9)	0.63 ± 0.17 (n=9)	0.69 ± 0.10 (n=9)	0.05 (n=9)	0.06 (n=9)	0.11 (n=9)
		CG	0.73 ± 0.18 (n=11)	0.82 ± 0.14 (n=10)	0.77 ± 0.18 (n=11)	0.09 (n=9)	-0.04 (n=10)	0.04 (n=11)
		p	0.005 ^b	IG2 < CG 0.018 ^d	NS	IG1#CG 0.024 ^d	IG1#CG 0.041 ^d	NS
		Post-hoc	IG1 > IG2 p=0.004 ^c					
Postero medial	IG1	0.80 ± 0.13 (n=11)	0.80 ± 0.12 (n=11)	0.94 ± 0.14 (n=11)	0.08 (n=11)	0.13 (n=11)	0.11 (n=10)	
	IG2	0.60 ± 0.15 (n=11)	0.66 ± 0.18 (n=11)	0.85 ± 0.16 (n=11)	0.06 (n=11)	0.19 (n=11)	0.25 (n=11)	
	CG	0.75 ± 0.20 (n=11)	0.84 ± 0.17 (n=10)	0.83 ± 0.14 (n=11)	0.09 (n=10)	0.00 (n=10)	0.08 (n=11)	

	<i>p</i>	0.022 ^b	IG2 < CG 0.024 ^d	NS	NS	IG2#CG 0.002 ^d	IG2#C G 0.003 ^d
	Post-hoc	IG1 > IG2 <i>p</i> =0.022 ^c					
Medial	IG1	0.67 ± 0.20 (n=11)	0.70 ± 0.20 (n=11)	0.95 ± 0.14 (n=11)	0.02 (n=11)	0.25 (n=11)	0.27 (n=11)
	IG2	0.44 ± 0.16 (n=10)	-	-	-	-	-
	CG	0.68 ± 0.20 (n=11)	0.91 ± 0.07 (n=9)	0.88 ± 0.13 (n=11)	0.21 (n=9)	-0.02 (n=9)	0.19 (n=11)
	<i>p</i>	0.009 ^b	IG1 < CG 0.005 ^d	NS	IG1#CG 0.040 ^d	IG1#CG 0.014 ^d	NS
	Post-hoc	IG1 > IG2 <i>p</i> =0.021 ^c					
		IG2 < CG <i>p</i> =0.017 ^c					
Antero medial	IG1	0.79 ± 0.04 (n=9)	0.86 ± 0.06 (n=9)	0.92 ± 0.07 (n=9)	0.06 (n=9)	0.06 (n=9)	0.12 (n=9)
	IG2	0.69 ± 0.06 (n=9)	0.77 ± 0.14 (n=9)	0.89 ± 0.10 (n=9)	0.08 (n=9)	0.12 (n=9)	0.20 (n=9)
	CG	0.78 ± 0.13 (n=11)	0.88 ± 0.11 (n=10)	0.89 ± 0.10 (n=11)	0.10 (n=10)	-0.01 (n=9)	0.08 (n=10)
	<i>p</i>	0.029 ^e	NS	NS	NS	IG2#CG 0.018 ^d	IG2#C G 0.002 ^d
	Post-hoc	IG1 > IG2 <i>p</i> =0.050 ^f					

^a Data are presented as mean values (X) and standard deviation (SD). CG, control group; IG1, intervention group 1; IG2, intervention group 2; M0, baseline/initial moment; M1, intermediate moment (3 months); M2, final moment (6 months); NS, non-significant;

^b *p* Values with the ANOVA test;

^c *p* Values for Tukey's post-hoc test;

^d *p* Values with *t* test for independent samples;

^e *p* Values with the Kruskal-Wallis test;

^f *p* Values for Dunn's post-hoc test.

In relation to the Flexicurve, kyphotic index, in the analysis between the 3 groups, as presented in table 6, there were significant differences in the variable difference M0-M2 ($X^2=6.759$, $p=0.031$) with a significant decrease in IG1 in comparison with CG ($p=0.041$).

Table 6. Inter-group analysis at different moments and of the variable difference of the Flexicurve ^a.

Variable	Group	M0 Md; IQR	M1 Md; IQR	M2 Md; IQR	Variable difference		
					M0-M1 Md	M1-M2 Md	M0-M2 Md
Flexicurve	IG1	12.93; 1.68 (n=11)	12.82; 2.19 (n=11)	10.73; 1.65 (n=11)	- 0.10 (n=11)	- 1.21 (n=11)	- 0.88 (n=11)
	IG2	11.81; 2.80 (n=11)	11.70; 2.36 (n=11)	10.43; 2.82 (n=11)	- 0.23 (n=11)	- 1.35 (n=11)	- 0.87 (n=11)
	CG	11.42; 1.36 (n=11)	11.18; 1.73 (n=10)	10.53; 1.75 (n=11)	0.26 (n=10)	- 0.28 (n=10)	0.64 (n=11)
	<i>p</i>	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	0.031 ^b
	Post-hoc						IG1 # CG <i>p</i> =0.041 ^c

^a Data are presented as median (Md) and interquartile range (IQR). CG, control group; IG1, intervention group 1; IG2, intervention group 2; M0, baseline/initial moment; M1, intermediate moment (3 months); M2, final moment (6 months); NS, non-significant;

^b *p* Values with the Kruskal-Wallis test;

^c *p* Values for Dunn's post- hoc test.

4. Discussion

The results of this study suggest that, in this sample, the integration in a specific exercise programme at the maintenance phase of CR resulted in improvements in the dynamic balance in both formats, and also in the kyphotic index in the virtual reality format. These results were not influenced by the body mass index, since this variable was similar in the three groups at the beginning of the study. These results highlight the importance of performing the maintenance phase of CR, emphasizing its potential.

Balance is a process resulting from a combination between stability and mobility, and it is necessary to maintain a position in space or to perform a movement, in a controlled and coordinated way (Kisner and Colby 2009). Besides the eventual alterations caused by the coronary artery disease, the connective tissue becomes stiff as a consequence of the natural aging process, and this might lead to loss of movement amplitudes; there is a decrease in the reaction time and in the postural correction speed, as well as a loss of muscle mass and, consequently, muscle contraction force therefore, aging is regarded as an important factor with a great impact on balance, affecting the sensory, neurological and musculoskeletal systems in a general way (Maciel and Guerra 2005, Choi and Kim 2015). The OLS test did not reveal significant alterations, since most of the participants, in the three groups, completed the test within 30 seconds. Further studies would benefit from taking into consideration the number of attempts made by the subjects to complete the test, as well as its realization with eyes closed trying to hit 1 minute without changing position.

As far as the SEBT is concerned, taking into account the significant differences in some directions, there were noticeable improvements in the dynamic balance after three months and after six months, but mainly in the last three months, in both intervention groups in comparison with CG. This was more visible in the lower left limb, perhaps due to the fact that most subjects, in the three groups, are right-handed and the lower left limb was the standing leg. Some of these alterations in balance can be explained by an increase in neural density, as well as by the influence of physical exercise in the cells of the peripheral nervous system, which increase in size and in oxidative capacity (Antunes *et al* 2006, Börjesson *et al* 2010). The alterations obtained can also be due to the fact that the accomplishment of this test requires a good muscular contraction, especially of the quadriceps and the ischiotibial muscles (Bashiri *et al* 2011), which were exercised in this study's exercise protocol. Exercises 1 (Marching in place), 4 (Ankle movement), 6 (Sit and stand) and 7 (Step forward, sideways and backward) of the present exercise protocol were also aimed at improving balance, with exercises 2 (Squats) and 8 (Walk) also contributing indirectly to that effect, since it focused on muscle strength and flexibility essential for balance (Howe *et al* 2011). However, it's important to mention that some distances reached by the CG' participants showed significant differences, improvements, in comparison with the intervention groups. In both limbs, the directions undergoing a decrease, mean values, were mostly the ones in which the centre of mass drifts away from the centre of the support basis (posteriorization and/or lateralization); the fact that the latter consisted of a unipedal support exceeded the stability limits even more, might explain the results obtained (Kisner and Colby 2009).

For further studies, it would be interesting to use balance tests associated with certain cognitive tasks because, according to Custódio *et al* (2010) and Rand *et al* (2010), there is a relationship between the executive function and balance, since these actions are the responsibility of the same brain area (pre-frontal cortex).

It is known that thoracic kyphosis tends to increase with the normal aging process (Bandeira *et al* 2010). According to Hinman (2004), thoracic curve alterations are more difficult to correct in older subjects, because they result from a lack of flexibility in posture, thus, when performed in youngsters, these procedures tend to be more effective. Even so, the group assigned to the virtual reality format presented a significant decrease in the kyphotic index, in comparison with CG between the baseline/initial and final moment of the study, which can also justify the positive results obtained in the balance. However, there is no consensus on the literature regarding this variable. According to Katzman *et al.* (2010), with the increase in the thoracic curve, the centre of mass moves forward, causing a loss of balance. However, on the other hand, several other studies found no associations whatsoever (Choi *et al* 2011, Eum *et al* 2013). The effects of physical exercise fall upon the causes of the increase in thoracic kyphosis, namely muscle weakness, degenerative processes of the intervertebral discs, and

genetic processes (Katzman *et al* 2010). Thus, aerobic exercise spreads an increase in motor unit recruitment, leading to an adaptation in the number of type II to type I fibers, which possess a longer capacity of resistance to fatigue (Börjesson *et al* 2010). Exercise 5 (Backward movements of the arms) and progression of exercise 3 (Crossing) of the present protocol were also aimed at improving thoracic curve.

According to Vieira *et al* (2017b) throughout the study/programme, which comprised three sessions a week, the mean adherence was higher than 65% in both formats (Noites *et al* 2015), in the first and last three months as well as a mean of the six months, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b) a good adherence in both groups (Noites *et al* 2015; Grace *et al* 2016); however, according to Vieira *et al* (2017b), there was a decrease in the last three months. According to Vieira *et al* (2017b), no significant differences were found between the groups, what proves that the adherence rate did not influence the results. The application of home-based exercise programmes in the context of CR, according to Chatzitofis *et al* (2015), carried the possibility of providing much higher adherence rates and early stage work has been carried out on self-adaptive home-based games in order to adapt to a patient's changing rehabilitation journey. This study is in accordance with these principles.

The main limitations of this study were the reduced number of participants, which hinders the results from being extrapolated, and the difficulties in monitoring the adherence to the programme in an objective way.

5. Conclusion

In this sample, composed of subjects with coronary artery disease, the prescribed specific exercise programme, to be performed over a period of six months and at home context, during the maintenance phase of CR, presented some benefits in the dynamic balance and benefits in the kyphotic index, in the group that performed the programme with a virtual reality format, when compared with the CG. The group that performed the programme with the conventional format presented only some benefits in the dynamic balance, when compared with the CG. Regarding the static balance, the programme did not show significant superior results, regarding the CG and between the different formats.

This study highlights the importance of evaluation of balance and kyphotic index in CR, the importance of studying the maintenance phase, as well as, and specially, virtual reality/Kinect's potential to be used as a tool in CR. Further studies could attempt to stratify the participants by age, assessing these parameters with both sexes and at the training phase of CR, being important to increase the sample size. It would also be interesting to use balance tests associated with certain cognitive tasks, exploring the potential of virtual reality in the CR

context and study the relationship between balance and kyphotic index, analysing the impact between them.

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CAPÍTULO VII

Efeito de um programa de reabilitação cardíaca fase de manutenção em contexto domiciliário, com realidade virtual, na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, atividade física e tolerância ao esforço: um estudo randomizado controlado

(Estudo V)

Estudo V

Efeito de um programa de reabilitação cardíaca fase de manutenção em contexto domiciliário, com realidade virtual, na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, atividade física e tolerância ao esforço: um estudo randomizado controlado

Effect of a home-based maintenance phase cardiac rehabilitation program, with virtual reality, in functional muscle strength of the lower limbs, physical activity and cardiorespiratory fitness: a randomized controlled trial

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Resumo

Introdução: A reabilitação cardíaca pode ser implementada em contexto domiciliário, podendo ser a realidade virtual um recurso. O estudo pretendeu analisar o efeito de um programa de exercícios específico, fase de manutenção, em contexto domiciliário durante seis meses, realizado com realidade virtual (*Kinect*) ou formato convencional (livrete), na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, atividade física e tolerância ao esforço em indivíduos com doença arterial coronária. **Materiais e Métodos:** Estudo randomizado controlado realizado com indivíduos de um hospital no Porto, Portugal, distribuídos aleatoriamente num grupo experimental 1 ($n=11$), cujo programa incluía o uso do *Kinect*; ou grupo experimental 2 ($n=11$), um livrete em papel; ou grupo controlo ($n=11$), apenas sujeito aos cuidados habituais. Os três receberam educação sobre fatores de risco cardiovascular. Além de previamente ao programa, foram avaliadas a força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores (Teste *Sit-to-Stand*), aos 3 e 6 meses, atividade física (Acelerómetro), aos 6 e 3 meses após o término do programa, e tolerância ao esforço (Provas de esforço), 3 meses após o término do programa. Foi utilizada estatística descritiva e inferencial, nível de significância 0.05. **Resultados:** Verificaram-se melhorias significativas no grupo experimental 1, quando comparado com o 2, na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores aos 3, $p=0.042$, e 6 meses, $p=0.027$. **Discussão:** O formato realidade virtual poderá ter beneficiado a força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, quando comparado com o convencional. O programa não demonstrou resultados superiores, relativamente ao grupo controlo e entre os diferentes formatos, na atividade física e tolerância ao esforço. **Conclusão:** A realidade virtual poderá ser uma alternativa.

Abstract

Introduction: The cardiac rehabilitation can be implemented in home context, with a possibility of using virtual reality. The study aimed to analyze the effect of a home-based specific exercise program with a six months period, maintenance phase, performed in a virtual reality (Kinect) or conventional environment (booklet), on functional muscle strength of the lower limbs, physical activity and cardiorespiratory fitness of subjects with coronary artery disease.

Materials and Methods: Randomized controlled trial conducted with subjects from a hospital in Porto, *Portugal*, randomly assigned to an intervention group 1 (n=11), whose program encompassed the use of Kinect; or intervention group 2 (n=11), a paper booklet; or a control group (n=11), only subjected to the usual care. The three received education on cardiovascular risk factors. Beyond the baseline, were assessed functional muscle strength of the lower limbs (Sit-to-Stand test), at 3 and 6 months, physical activity (Accelerometer), at 6 and 3 months after the end of the program, and cardiorespiratory fitness (Stress tests), at 3 months after the end of the program. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used, 0.05 significance level.

Results: There have been significant improvements in the intervention group 1, when compared with the 2, in functional muscle strength of the lower limbs at 3, $p=0.042$, and 6 months, $p=0.027$. **Discussion:** The virtual reality format may have benefited the functional muscle strength of the lower limbs, when compared with the conventional. The program did not show superior results, regarding the control group and between the different formats, in physical activity and cardiorespiratory fitness. **Conclusion:** The virtual reality may be an alternative.

Keywords

Technology; coronary disease; exercise; cardiac rehabilitation.

Introdução

Em Portugal, as doenças cardiovasculares, nas quais se inclui a doença arterial coronária, lideram as taxas de mortalidade e morbilidade assim, como forma de promoção de uma recuperação precoce, foram criados os programas de reabilitação cardíaca (RC).¹ Este estudo decorreu na última fase da RC, a fase de manutenção, que pretende preservar a longo prazo as capacidades e comportamentos desenvolvidos na fase de treino, focando-se na autorregulação do paciente e adoção de comportamentos saudáveis.²

Nos pacientes cardíacos é notória a diminuição da normal tolerância ao esforço que se traduz num ciclo de sedentarismo, estando os programas de RC associados ao aumento da

capacidade de exercício e capacidade funcional³, podendo estas mesmas conclusões ser transferidas para a fase de manutenção.

Vários autores concluíram que programas de RC, em contexto domiciliário, têm sensivelmente o mesmo impacto positivo, nos diversos *outcomes* psicossociais e hemodinâmicos, que os usuais programas em contexto hospitalar⁴⁻⁶, o que valida o contexto domiciliário. Na população portuguesa existem poucos estudos que estimam os efeitos a longo prazo após um programa de RC¹, logo a pertinência deste estudo é tentar perceber de que forma um programa de exercícios específico na fase de manutenção da RC, em contexto domiciliário, pode ser vantajoso, não só para a manutenção, mas para a obtenção de uma vida ainda mais ativa e saudável, uma vez que segundo Perk et al.⁷ a atividade física e treino aeróbio são sugeridas como ferramentas imprescindíveis para a prevenção cardiovascular primária e secundária. Este mesmo programa de exercícios evidencia-se pelo facto que, neste estudo, é apresentada uma alternativa inovadora, para a implementação do programa de RC, baseada na realidade virtual, com recurso ao *Kinect* da *Microsoft*.

De acordo com Humphrey, Guazzi and Niebauer⁸, as taxas de participação da RC apresentam um dos vários desafios e oportunidades para futuras pesquisas na Europa, juntamente com a avaliação dos resultados a longo prazo da doença cardiovascular. A isto, acrescenta-se a pertinência de explorar outras alternativas para a implementação destes programas, nomeadamente com recurso às novas tecnologias.

O presente estudo teve assim como objetivo analisar o efeito de um programa de exercícios específico, desenhado para ser realizado em contexto domiciliário durante a fase de manutenção da RC, por um período de seis meses. O estudo comparou um formato realidade virtual (*Kinect*), um formato convencional (livrete) e um grupo controlo (GC) (cuidados habituais) e mediu as alterações na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, atividade física: volume total de atividade e perfil de intensidade desta, e tolerância ao esforço estimada em equivalentes metabólicos (MET), tempo de prova e duplo produto máximo, em indivíduos com doença arterial coronária.

Material e Métodos

Este estudo constitui uma parte de um projeto global e, no mesmo, é apresentada uma metodologia semelhante à anteriormente publicada em Vieira et al.^{9,10} e posteriormente complementada em Vieira et al.¹¹, devidamente referenciados ao longo do presente estudo.

Desenho do estudo

Este estudo é um estudo randomizado controlado, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, de três braços, grupo-paralelo durante um período de 23 meses.

De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10} o estudo foi aprovado pela Comissão de Ética do Centro Hospitalar do Porto – Departamento de Ensino, Formação e Investigação – N/REF.^a 212/12 (165-DEFI/157-CES) e da Escola Superior de Saúde, Instituto Politécnico do Porto – 1489/2012. De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, todos os procedimentos foram conduzidos de acordo com a Declaração de Helsínquia e, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, o estudo está registado no *ClinicalTrials.gov* (NCT02753829).

Amostra

De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, a amostra foi obtida do Centro Hospitalar do Porto. De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, a população alvo foram indivíduos que tinham acabado de concluir a fase de treino da RC na Unidade de Prevenção e Reabilitação Cardiovascular. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹¹, no fim da fase de treino, os indivíduos foram, pelo investigador responsável pessoal e, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, individualmente convidados a participar no estudo. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, a inclusão e atribuição foram realizadas pelo investigador responsável, com a ajuda da responsável pela Unidade, de acordo com os critérios de inclusão e exclusão (Tabela 1) de acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}.

Tabela 1. Critérios de inclusão/exclusão. Os mesmos de Vieira et al.^{9,10}.

Critérios de inclusão	Critérios de exclusão
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambos os sexos, com idades compreendidas entre os 40- 75 anos; Fase de treino da RC finalizada na Unidade de Prevenção e Reabilitação Cardiovascular; Doença arterial coronária, diagnosticada e estabilizada, sem angina instável e arritmias ventriculares complexas¹²⁻¹⁵ com ou sem intervenção coronária percutânea e com um diagnóstico final de enfarte agudo do miocárdio ou angina de peito estável; Acesso a um computador com, no mínimo, o <i>Microsoft Windows 7</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cirurgia cardíaca; Prova de esforço que não terminou por fadiga máxima; Período de gestação ou intenção de engravidar; Alto risco cardiovascular^{12,14,15} de acordo com Pescatello et al.¹⁶; <i>Pacemaker</i>, patologias neurológicas, músculo-esqueléticas ou pulmonares graves e desordens metabólicas não compensadas, demência reportada¹⁴⁻¹⁶, cardiomiopatias e antecedentes de paragem cardiorrespiratória não associada a enfarte agudo do miocárdio ou a procedimentos cardíacos; Défices visuais¹⁴ e auditivos significativos e não compensados; Analfabetos e/ou sem domínio da língua portuguesa; Integração ou intenção de integrar ginásio ou programas de exercício físico regular.

O diagrama de fluxo, de acordo com Vieira et al.^{10,11}, é apresentado na Fig. 1. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, os participantes foram distribuídos, de forma aleatória, a um de três grupos: Grupo experimental 1 (GE1) - inserido num programa de RC, em contexto domiciliário, com utilização de um computador e *Kinect* (formato realidade virtual) (n=15); Grupo experimental 2 (GE2) - inserido num programa de RC, em contexto domiciliário, com utilização de um livrete em papel (formato convencional) (n=15); e GC, apenas sujeito aos cuidados habituais (n=16). De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰ foi usada uma randomização por blocos, e uma sequência de alocação com base num tamanho de bloco fixo de 3 foi gerada com um computador gerador de números aleatórios por um investigador não envolvido no estudo.

De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10} durante o seguimento, quatro indivíduos foram excluídos do GE1 e, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, do GE2 e cinco do GC. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, a amostra final foi constituída por 33 indivíduos: GE1 n=11, GE2 n=11 e GC n=11.

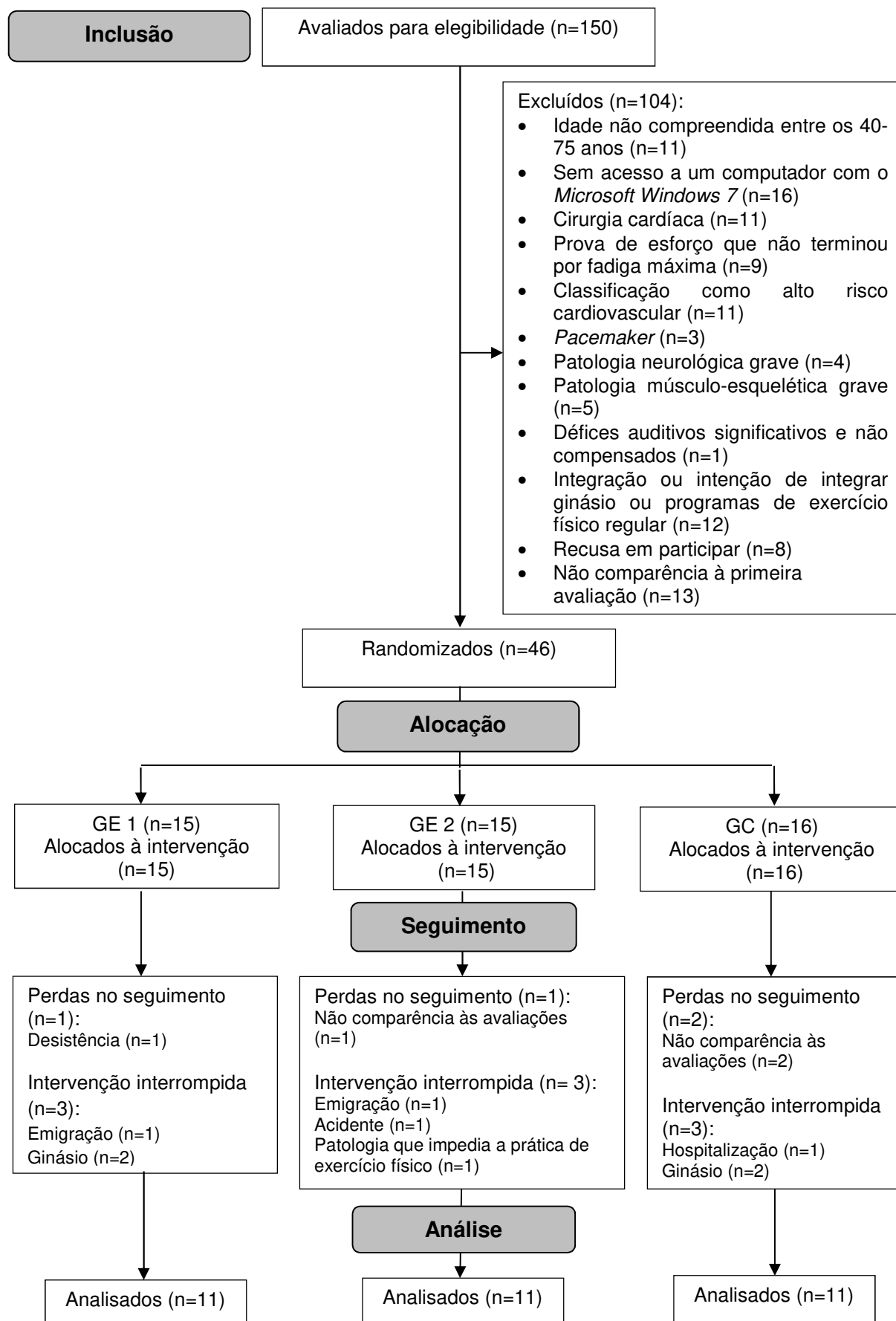


Figura 1. Diagrama de fluxo dos pacientes (avaliados para elegibilidade n=150). O mesmo de Vieira et al.¹¹ e de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰. GC, grupo controlo; GE1, grupo experimental 1; GE2, grupo experimental 2.

Recolha de dados

De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, foi realizado um estudo piloto em 10 indivíduos com características semelhantes à população alvo, para avaliar a praticabilidade dos exercícios, a fiabilidade dos instrumentos e melhorar a organização temporal das recolhas de dados.

A avaliação do estudo para os três grupos, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, consistiu em quatro momentos, sendo apresentada na Fig.2 a organização temporal do estudo e respetivas recolhas de dados com os instrumentos. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, as recolhas de dados tiveram lugar na Unidade de Prevenção e Reabilitação Cardiovascular e na Escola Superior de Saúde do Porto.

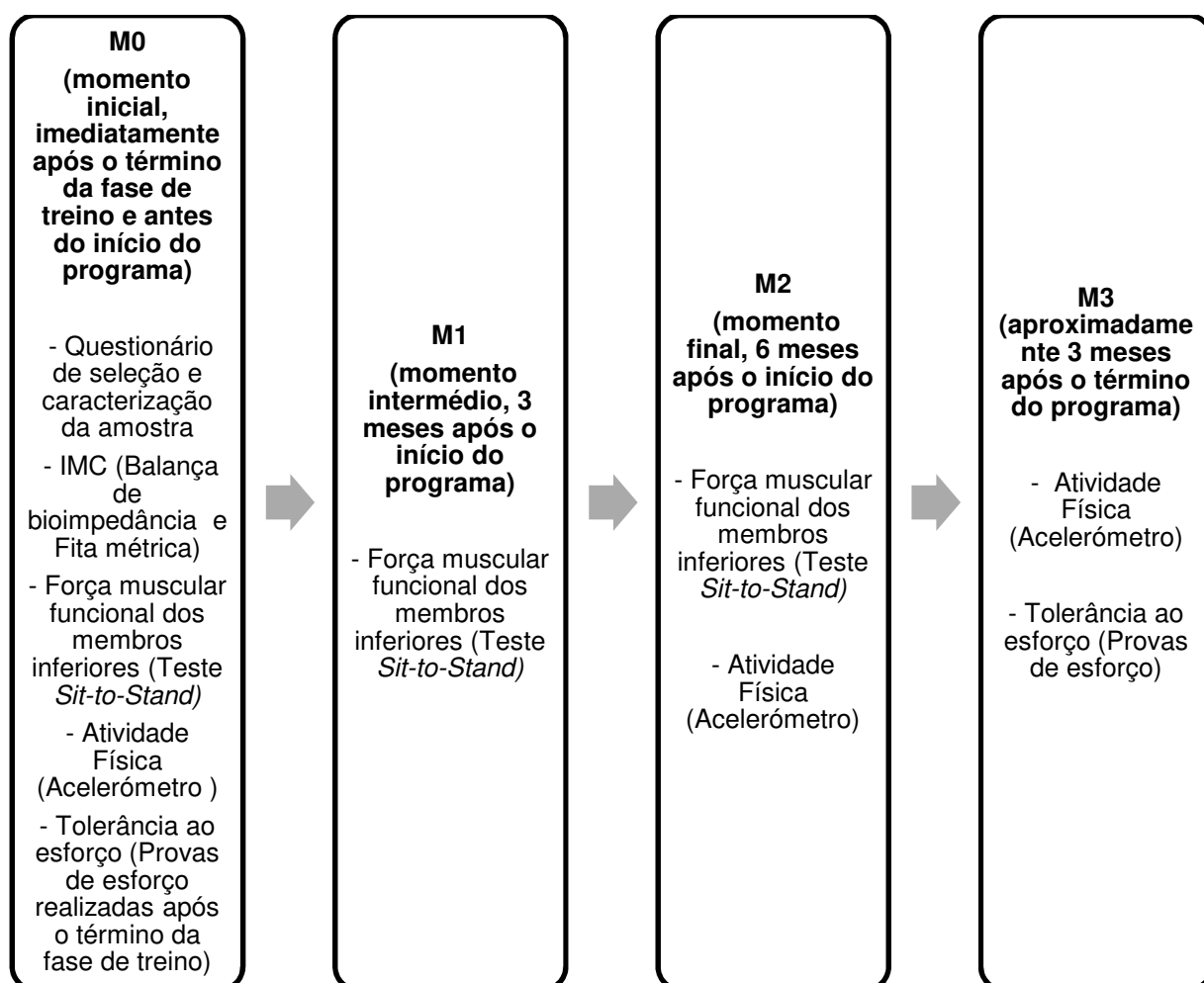


Figura 2. Organização temporal do estudo e respetivas recolhas de dados com os instrumentos. IMC, índice de massa corporal.

Em M0, os participantes, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, preencheram um questionário de seleção e caracterização da amostra com questões pessoais e demográficas, de historial médico e relativas à RC. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹¹, o historial médico e os dados, de cada indivíduo, foram recolhidos e/ou verificados no processo clínico.

De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, em M0, foram feitas três medições da altura, sendo utilizado o valor médio. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, a medição foi realizada no final da inspiração a volume corrente, em apneia, com os participantes na posição ortostática, descalços e com os calcanhares, nádegas e parte posterior da cabeça em contacto com a parede¹⁷, tendo sido utilizada uma fita métrica inelástica, com precisão de 0.1 centímetros para um máximo de 2 metros.¹⁸ De seguida, em M0, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, procedeu-se à avaliação do peso na balança de bioimpedância *Tanita InnerScan* modelo *BC-545 TM (EUA)*, com uma capacidade de 150 quilogramas e precisão de 0.1 quilograma para o peso, com os participantes despídos, descalços, e com os calcanhares devidamente alinhados com os elétrodos da plataforma, sem objetos metálicos.¹⁹ De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, os participantes foram informados para evitarem álcool, cafeína e refeições pesadas nas 24 horas anteriores, urinar meia hora antes da pesagem e não realizar atividade física intensa 4 horas antes.^{17,19} Com o peso e altura, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, obteve-se o índice de massa corporal (IMC):
$$\text{IMC} = \frac{\text{Massa Corporal (quilograma)}}{\text{Altura}^2 \text{ (metro)}};$$
 cada participante foi classificado: Normal 18.5-24.9; Excesso de peso 25-29.9 e Obesidade ≥ 30 quilograma/metro².¹⁶

Para avaliar as variáveis em estudo, em M0, M1 e M2, recorreu-se ao teste *Sit-to-Stand* (30 segundos), teste útil para avaliar a força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores²⁰ com validade de critério alta, quando comparado com o máximo de peso levantado no *leg press*, $r=0.78$ para os homens.²¹ A fiabilidade intra observador do presente estudo piloto foi excelente, ICC=0.99.²²

Pediu-se aos participantes que se sentassem num banco regulável, encostado a uma parede, posicionado a uma altura de 43.2 centímetros, e que cruzassem as mãos ao ombro oposto, com os pés à largura das ancas a apontarem anteriormente. Foram realizados três movimentos de aprendizagem e, com um intervalo de descanso de dois minutos entre cada, três ensaios de teste, correspondendo o valor final ao maior número de levantes dos três ensaios. Solicitou-se que à palavra já, realizassem o mais rapidamente possível, durante 30 segundos, o movimento de sentar e levantar, levantando-se e sentando-se completamente.²⁰ Utilizou-se um cronómetro da marca *Samsung*.

Em M0, M2 e M3, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰ a atividade física foi mensurada com um acelerómetro – *ActiGraph*, modelo *GT3X* (com sede em *49 East Chase Street Pensacola, FL 35502, USA*), auxiliado por uma folha de registo.

Segundo Thiese et al.²³, a validade de critério foi realizada através de comparação direta com o teste de 6 minutos de marcha. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, foi colocado verticalmente sobre a crista ilíaca ântero-superior, sendo apenas retirado para dormir e atividades aquáticas²⁴; foram considerados os valores de corte de *counts* de troiano para classificar a atividade física quanto a sedentária (≤ 99 *counts*/minuto), ligeira (≥ 100 e ≤ 2019 *counts*/minuto) e moderada a vigorosa (≥ 2020 *counts*/minuto).²⁵ De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, foi solicitado o uso durante 7 dias consecutivos, tendo sido incluídos, no mínimo, 4 dias válidos (no mínimo 600 minutos de recolha), compreendendo pelo menos um dia de fim-de-semana^{25,26}; foi utilizado o *software ActiLife* para programar o registo dos dados a cada 5 segundos (*epoch*).

Para estimar e mensurar a tolerância ao esforço, em M0 e M3, recolheram-se dados das provas de esforço: equivalentes metabólicos (MET), tempo de prova e duplo produto máximo (Frequência cardíaca (FC) máxima x Tensão arterial sistólica máxima), realizadas no Centro Hospitalar do Porto, segundo o protocolo de *Bruce*. Segundo Greenland et al.²⁷ este teste apresenta uma sensibilidade entre os 50 e 70% e especificidade de 80%.

Intervenção

De acordo com Vieira et al.¹¹, todos os participantes dos três grupos receberam educação sobre fatores de risco cardiovascular; os GEs tiveram também acesso a um programa específico de exercícios, realizado com a realidade virtual (*Kinect*), GE1, ou um livrete em papel, GE2. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹¹, o processo de ensino e o seguimento em pessoa tiveram lugar na Unidade de Prevenção e Reabilitação Cardiovascular, Escola Superior de Saúde do Porto e/ou na casa do participante.

De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰ foram primeiro entregues panfletos, a todos os participantes dos três grupos, com informação sobre fatores de risco cardiovascular, que incidiam nos hábitos alimentares, tabágicos e atividade física; os panfletos foram apresentados e questões relativas aos mesmos foram esclarecidas. Um folheto com uma breve apresentação do estudo, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, também foi entregue. No que diz respeito aos grupos experimentais, de acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, antes de avançar para o protocolo de exercícios e respetivas indicações, os indivíduos realizaram três classes de ensino e demonstração (nomeadamente relativas à preparação do espaço em casa), com um intervalo de pelo menos 1 dia.^{14,15} No GE1, de acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, foi também realizado o ensino do uso do *Kinect*.

De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10} a FC de treino, para cada participante, foi determinada utilizando a fórmula de *Karvonen*, com a FC de reserva, tendo por base a FC máxima da prova de esforço e sendo a FC basal obtida com o participante sentado e relaxado. De acordo com

Vieira et al.¹⁰, utilizou-se o cardiófrequencímetro *Polar Wearlink Coded*, modelo *FT7* com relógio, com uma precisão excelente (erro de $\pm 1\%$ ou ± 1 batimento por minuto)²⁸, para determinar a FC de treino, assim como o número de repetições.

O protocolo de exercícios, realizado pelos GEs, de acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10} foi adaptado às características do contexto domiciliário em formato de sistema de auto monitorização, com dois níveis progressivos, cumprindo os princípios da sobrecarga, especificidade e reversibilidade, sendo realizado a intensidade moderada, no protocolo de exercícios nível 1 a intensidade do exercício foi a 65% da FC de reserva.^{16,29} De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, aos três meses foi realizada a progressão para o nível 2, com uma intensidade de 70% da FC de reserva.^{16,29} De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, a progressão foi realizada aumentando o número de repetições, séries e/ou com modificações na execução do exercício.

De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, a intensidade e número de repetições também foram monitorizados com a escala de percepção subjetiva de esforço de *Borg* (6-20) para que se atingisse um intervalo entre 12-13.^{15,16,29} De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰ esta apresenta uma validade de critério comparada com a FC de $r=0,62$ e $r=0,64$ comparada com o VO_2 máximo.

³⁰ De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10} o protocolo de exercícios foi realizado 3 vezes por semana ³¹ durante 6 meses ^{14,15}, no horário mais conveniente para cada participante, aconselhando-se, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, ainda uma caminhada diária, nos restantes dias, de 30 minutos.³¹ De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10} o protocolo de exercícios (Tabela 2), desenhado por um especialista certificado em Fisioterapia com 5 anos de experiência na área e adaptado de Noites et al.³², foi constituído por 10 exercícios: um de aquecimento; sete de condicionamento, cuja finalidade foi melhorar a *endurance* cardiorrespiratória e muscular e/ou força, e dois para aumentar a flexibilidade dos membros. De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, os exercícios 1, 4, 6 e 7 tinham ainda como objetivo melhorar o equilíbrio, assim como o exercício 5 e progressão do exercício 3 melhorar a curvatura torácica.

De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, o GE2 realizou o programa, em contexto domiciliário, com recurso a livretes em papel para consulta. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹¹, o programa do GE1 incluía o uso da realidade virtual, de acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10} com recurso ao *Kinect* (*Microsoft*) e a um computador, tendo sido o sistema instalado em casa de cada participante. De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, o projeto *Kinect-RehabPlay*, desenvolvido na Faculdade Engenharia, Universidade do Porto ³³, depende de um *software* para monitorizar e avaliar os exercícios de reabilitação, que têm de ser executados pelo utilizador e capturados pelo sensor do *Kinect*, fornecendo ao utilizador um *feedback* em tempo real da tarefa ³³. De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, este sistema proporciona um fisioterapeuta virtual a executar o exercício e a fornecer indicações relativas à qualidade de execução, sendo o participante também representado como um segundo *avatar*, que segue de forma interativa o fisioterapeuta.³³

Tabela 2. Apresentação do protocolo de exercícios. O mesmo de Vieira et al.^{9,10}.

Fase da sessão		Exercício	Descrição
Aquecimento 10 minutos		1- Marcha “parada”	Flexão da anca, abaixo do nível da cintura, com flexão da glenoumeral contra lateral, sem sair do mesmo sítio; Após 3 meses realizar a flexão da anca até ao nível da cintura.
Condicionamento	Força 20–25 minutos (calcular o número individual de repetições de acordo com 65–70% da FC de reserva)	2- Agachamentos	Com os pés afastados à largura dos ombros, fletir os joelhos sem que os joelhos ultrapassem a ponta dos pés, com flexão bilateral da glenoumeral a 90°; Após 3 meses realizar duas séries com um minuto de repouso entre series.
		3- “Cruzar”	Manter a marcha “parada” durante o exercício; realizar a primeira diagonal de facilitação neuromuscular propriocetiva para a flexão bilateral do membro superior (flexão, adução e rotação externa da glenoumeral); Após 3 meses realizar duas séries com um minuto de repouso entre series a segunda diagonal de facilitação neuromuscular propriocetiva para a flexão bilateral do membro superior (flexão, abdução e rotação externa da glenoumeral).
		4- Movimento do Tornozelo	Dorsiflexão/flexão plantar dos tornozelos em pé; Após 3 meses realizar duas séries com um minuto de repouso entre series.
		5- Movimentos dos braços “para trás”	Manter a marcha “parada” durante o exercício; realizar extensão, abdução e rotação externa da glenoumeral até ao final de amplitude. No final do movimento fazer 10 pequenas insistências; Após 3 meses realizar duas séries com um minuto de repouso entre series.
		6- Sentar e levantar	Sentar numa cadeira com os membros superiores cruzados no peito. Sentar de forma controlada; Após 3 meses baixar a altura do assento.
	Endurance 35–45 minutos (calcular o número individual de	7- Passo para a frente, para o lado e para trás	Realizar o semipasso anterior e posterior com flexão bilateral dos membros superiores, e semipasso lateral com abdução e rotação externa bilateral dos membros superiores; Após 3 meses realizar duas séries com um minuto de repouso entre series.

	repetições de acordo com 65-70% da FC de reserva)	8- Caminhada (30 minutos)	Após 3 meses, se possível, aumentar para 60 minutos.
Alongamento 6 minutos		9- Alongamento dos músculos posteriores das pernas	Alongamento do trícipite sural 4 repetições/ manter 15 segundos
		10- Alongamento dos músculos anteriores dos antebraços	Alongamento dos flexores do punho 4 repetições/ manter 15 segundos

FC, Frequência cardíaca

De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, o *software* usa o *Microsoft Kinect* para acompanhar o movimento individual e fazer uma correspondência com um padrão pré-definido; este recurso monitorizou o número de repetições para cada exercício, de acordo com o valor pré-calculado, e definido no “perfil de exercício” individual, sendo o mesmo referido no programa juntamente com o respetivo exercício.

Ao longo do estudo, os indivíduos do GE1 e GE2, de acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, registaram, durante as sessões, os valores da FC, classificação de *Borg* e possíveis comentários num “Diário do Exercício” e com este foi registada a assiduidade aos exercícios e assim a adesão ao programa. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, a percentagem de adesão foi assim definida com o número de sessões realizadas, de acordo com o registo no “Diário do Exercício”, dividido pelo número total de sessões prescritas (três sessões por semana durante seis meses).

De acordo com Vieira et al.¹¹, o registo da FC de treino e da classificação de *Borg*, em casa durante as sessões, funcionou como uma forma de monitorização; os participantes avaliaram a FC com o auxílio de um cardiófrequencímetro, que tinham adquirido voluntariamente, ou com a medição manual previamente ensinada.

De acordo com Vieira et al.¹¹, o GC foi apenas sujeito aos cuidados habituais. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, tal como nos GEs, eles também receberam a educação sobre fatores de risco cardiovascular, tendo sido também incentivadas as caminhadas diárias.

Para os três grupos, de acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10} agendaram-se contactos telefónicos nas semanas 4, 10 e 22, assim como, para os GEs, visitas domiciliárias ou reuniões presenciais (como forma de reavaliação e reajuste dos exercícios) nas semanas 6 e 18.^{14,15} De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, eram enviados *e-mails* e/ou mensagens telefónicas semanalmente, para os participantes dos GEs, a enfatizar a importância de aderir ao programa.

Estatística

Assumindo um poder de 80% com um nível de significância de 5%, o cálculo do poder revelou um efeito de treino de 0.60 na atividade física sedentária, indicando a necessidade de 30 participantes, para assegurar o poder estatístico para detetar diferenças entre os três grupos em M3.

A análise estatística foi realizada através do *software* IBM SPSS 22 (*Statistical Package for the Social Sciences*) para *Windows*, com um nível de significância de 0.05 e intervalo de confiança de 95%. A caracterização da amostra foi realizada através de estatística descritiva. Para a análise entre os grupos, nos vários momentos (M0, M1, M2 e M3) e na variável diferença entre os momentos de avaliação (M0-M1, M1-M2, M0-M2, M2-M3 e M0-M3), quando a distribuição seguia a normalidade utilizou-se o teste *ANOVA*, análise de variância a um fator e o teste *post-hoc* de *Tukey* nas variáveis racionais e nominais e, quando não seguia a normalidade, utilizaram-se o teste de *Kruskal-Wallis* e o teste *post-hoc* de *Dunn*, e o teste de *Fisher* para amostras independentes, para as variáveis racionais e nominais, respetivamente. Na adesão utilizou-se o teste *t* para amostras independentes para comparar os dois GEs.³⁴ Na análise intra grupo para comparar M0, M1, M2 e M3 foi utilizado o teste *ANOVA* de medidas repetidas e o teste *post-hoc* de *Bonferroni*, ou o teste de *Friedman* e o teste *post-hoc* de *Dunn*, caso as variáveis seguissem a normalidade ou tal não se verificasse. Para as provas de esforço, para comparar M0 e M3, utilizou-se o teste *t* para amostras emparelhadas quando a distribuição seguia a normalidade e o teste de *Wilcoxon* quando não seguia.³⁴

Resultados

De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰ a amostra final foi composta por 33 indivíduos, todos do género masculino. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, em M0, não se verificaram diferenças significativas entre os três grupos ($p > 0.05$) nas características da amostra (demográficas e clínicas e medicação) (Tabela 3), assim como na alteração da medicação ao longo do estudo. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, em M0, no IMC os três grupos apresentavam valores classificados como tendo excesso de peso, 63.6% no GE1, 45.4% no GE2 e 36.4% no GC, e nos três grupos a atividade física apresentou-se ligeira.

Tabela 3. Caracterização da Amostra em M0. A mesma de Vieira et al.¹⁰ e de acordo em Vieira et al.⁹.

Variável		GE1 (n=11)	GE2 (n=11)	GC (n=11)
Idade (anos)		55 ± 9.0	59 ± 11.3	59 ± 5.8
IMC (quilograma/metro ²)		27.4 ± 3.0	26.9 ± 4.7	28.0 ± 3.6
Counts (counts/minuto)		355.4 ± 144.6	365.1 ± 138.5	424.9 ± 82.6
Situação Profissional	Ativo	7 (64%)	2 (18%)	5 (45%)
	Não ativo	4 (36%)	9 (82%)	6 (55%)
Motivo Admissão Hospitalar	SCA sem elevação do segmento ST	6 (55%)	6 (55%)	5 (45%)
	SCA com elevação do segmento ST	5 (45%)	3 (27%)	6 (55%)
	Angina de peito estável e pós-angioplastia	0	2 (18%)	0
Fatores de risco cardiovascular	Dislipidemia	10 (91%)	9 (82%)	8 (73%)
	Obesidade	2 (18%)	2 (18%)	4 (36%)
	Diabetes <i>Mellitus</i>	2 (18%)	3 (27%)	1 (9%)
	Hipertensão arterial	5 (45%)	6 (55%)	8 (73%)
	Tabagismo	5 (45%)	5 (45%)	4 (36%)
	Antecedentes familiares	1 (9%)	1 (9%)	2 (18%)
Farmacologia	Antiagregantes plaquetários	9 (82%)	11 (100%)	10 (91%)
	Betabloqueadores	8 (73%)	9 (82%)	8 (73%)
	Estatinas	9 (82%)	11 (100%)	11 (100%)
	Anti hipertensores	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	6 (55%)
	Vasodilatadores	1 (9%)	3 (27%)	5 (45%)
	Bloqueadores dos canais de cálcio	0	1 (9%)	1 (9%)
Risco cardiovascular	Baixo	7 (64%)	7 (64%)	8 (73%)
	Moderado	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	3 (27%)

Os dados são apresentados como média e desvio-padrão ou n(%). O risco cardiovascular foi classificado de acordo com Pescatello et al.¹⁶. GC, grupo controlo; GE1, grupo experimental 1; GE2, grupo experimental 2; IMC, Índice de Massa Corporal; SCA, Síndrome coronária aguda.

De acordo com Vieira et al.^{9,10}, no que diz respeito à percentagem de adesão dos indivíduos ao programa, para as três sessões semanais, o GE1 apresentou uma média de 82% nos primeiros 3 meses e 70% nos últimos 3, sendo a média nos 6 meses de 77%. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, o GE2 apresentou uma média de 90% nos primeiros 3 meses e 75% nos últimos 3, sendo a média nos 6 meses de 83%. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, não foram encontradas diferenças significativas entre os dois grupos.

Em M0 não se observaram diferenças significativas, entre os grupos, nas variáveis em estudo, sendo os três comparáveis.

No teste *Sit-to-Stand*, força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, na análise entre grupos, verificaram-se diferenças significativas em M1 ($F=4.304$, $p=0.023$) com um aumento significativo no GE1 e GC quando comparados com o GE2, respetivamente $p=0.042$ e

$p=0.046$, assim como em M2 ($F=4.594$, $p=0.018$) com um aumento significativo no GE1 e GC quando comparados com o GE2, respetivamente $p=0.027$ e $p=0.046$ (Tabela 4). Na análise da variável diferença (M0-M1, M1-M2 e M0-M2), não se verificaram diferenças significativas entre os grupos. Na análise intra grupo verificaram-se diferenças significativas, com aumento significativo do número de levantes, no GE1 ($F=14.569$, $p=0.001$) entre M0 e M2 ($p=0.003$) e M1 e M2 ($p=0.003$), no GE2 ($F=4.124$, $p=0.032$) entre M1 e M2 ($p=0.040$), e no GC ($F=13.398$, $p=0.001$) entre M0 e M1 ($p=0.007$) e M0 e M2 ($p=0.004$).

Tabela 4. Análise entre grupos nos diferentes momentos do teste *Sit-to-Stand*.

Variável	Grupo	M0 X±DP	M1 X±DP	M2 X±DP
Teste <i>Sit-to-Stand</i> (número de levantes)	GE1	14.3 ± 2.8 (n=11)	19.5 ± 7.7 (n=11)	23.0 ± 7.7 (n=11)
	GE2	10.8 ± 4.6 (n=11)	11.9 ± 4.7 (n=11)	14.6 ± 4.6 (n=11)
	GC	16.0 ± 6.8 (n=11)	19.6 ± 8.2 (n=10)	22.3 ± 8.8 (n=11)
	<i>p</i>	NS	0.023 ^a	0.018 ^a
	<i>Post-hoc</i>		GE1 > GE2 $p=0.042^b$	GE1 > GE2 $p=0.027^b$
			GE2 < GC $p=0.046^b$	GE2 < GC $p=0.046^b$

Apresentado em médias (X) e desvio padrão (DP). GC, grupo controlo; GE1, grupo experimental 1; GE2, grupo experimental 2; M0, momento inicial; M1, momento intermédio (3 meses); M2, momento final (6 meses); NS, não significativo.

^a Valores de *p* com o teste ANOVA;

^b Valores de *p* para o teste de *post-hoc* de Tukey.

No acelerómetro, atividade física, na análise entre grupos, verificaram-se diferenças significativas na atividade física sedentária em M3 ($F=4.373$, $p=0.023$) com um aumento significativo no GE1 quando comparado com o GC ($p=0.024$) (Tabela 5). Na análise da variável diferença (M0-M2, M2-M3 e M0-M3), não se verificaram diferenças significativas entre os grupos. Relativamente à análise intra grupo, no GE1, verificaram-se diferenças significativas na atividade física moderada a vigorosa ($F=6.787$, $p=0.009$) e *counts* ($F=4.556$, $p=0.030$) com uma diminuição significativa entre M0 e M2, $p=0.033$ e $p=0.030$, respetivamente.

Tabela 5. Análise entre grupos nos diferentes momentos dos dados do Acelerómetro.

Variável	Grupo	M0 X±DP	M2 X±DP	M3 X±DP
Acelerómetro	Atividade física sedentária (minutos/dia)	GE1	646.2 ± 66.3 (n=11)	675.2 ± 54.5 (n=9)
		GE2	592.6 ± 82.5 (n=11)	601.4 ± 95.0 (n=11)
		GC	607.2 ± 81.0 (n=10)	576.0 ± 90.0 (n=9)
		<i>p</i>	NS	0.023 ^a
		<i>Post-hoc</i>		GE1 > GC <i>p</i> =0.024 ^b
	Atividade física ligeira (minutos/dia)	GE1	116.8 ± 31.5 (n=11)	112.3 ± 16.8 (n=9)
		GE2	143.9 ± 42.2 (n=11)	128.3 ± 49.1 (n=11)
		GC	153.4 ± 59.1 (n=10)	175.1 ± 96.0 (n=9)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS
	Atividade física moderada a vigorosa (minutos/dia)	GE1	59.4 ± 32.5 (n=11)	40.9 ± 18.6 (n=9)
		GE2	54.6 ± 22.3 (n=11)	44.2 ± 16.4 (n=11)
		GC	71.9 ± 17.5 (n=10)	57.1 ± 16.4 (n=10)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS
	Counts (counts/minuto)	GE1	355.4 ± 144.6 (n=11)	279.9 ± 117.4 (n=9)
		GE2	365.1 ± 138.5 (n=11)	301.2 ± 113.8 (n=11)
		GC	424.9 ± 82.6 (n=11)	371.3 ± 81.7 (n=10)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS

Apresentado em médias (X) e desvio padrão (DP). GC, grupo controlo; GE1, grupo experimental 1; GE2, grupo experimental 2; M0, momento inicial; M1, momento intermédio (3 meses); M2, momento final (6 meses); M3, três meses após término do programa; NS, não significativo.

^a Valores de *p* com o teste ANOVA;

^b Valores de *p* para o teste de *post-hoc* de Tukey.

Nas provas de esforço, tolerância ao esforço, na análise entre os três grupos nos diferentes momentos (Tabela 6), e variável diferença (M0-M3) não se verificaram diferenças significativas, assim como na análise intra grupo.

Tabela 6. Análise entre grupos nos diferentes momentos dos dados da Prova de esforço.

Variável		Grupo	M0 X±DP	M3 X±DP
Prova de esforço	MET	GE1	11.9 ± 1.6 (n=10)	11.9 ± 1.3 (n=10)
		GE2	10.8 ± 1.9 (n=11)	10.7 ± 1.9 (n=10)
		GC	11.2 ± 2.6 (n=11)	11.1 ± 2.7 (n=9)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS
	Tempo de prova (segundos)	GE1	690.5 ± 120.9 (n=10)	693.90 ± 98.4 (n=10)
		GE2	612.0 ± 148.1 (n=11)	600.7 ± 145.9 (n=10)
		GC	639.6 ± 191.0 (n=11)	631.7 ± 193.9 (n=9)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS
	Duplo produto máximo	GE1	23032.0 ± 3536.2 (n=10)	24646.7 ± 2946.2 (n=9)
		GE2	22853.2 ± 4198.7 (n=11)	23629.5 ± 5024.6 (n=10)
		GC	20840.0 ± 4223.7 (n=11)	24119.4 ± 5673.9 (n=9)
		<i>p</i>	NS	NS

Apresentado em médias (X) e desvio padrão (DP). GC, grupo controlo; GE1, grupo experimental 1; GE2, grupo experimental 2; M0, momento inicial; M3, três meses após término do programa; MET, equivalentes metabólicos; NS, não significativo.

Discussão

Ao analisar os resultados deste estudo é importante frisar o facto de os participantes já terem realizado a fase de treino onde existiu promoção da capacidade funcional, hábitos de exercício físico e força muscular funcional ¹ estando no início os valores alvo de estudo, de uma forma

geral, dentro dos recomendados, o que pode ter limitado a sua melhoria na agora fase de manutenção. Não se pode, ainda assim esquecer, que a fase de manutenção pretende, em primeiro lugar, preservar a longo prazo as capacidades desenvolvidas.² Contudo, na avaliação da força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, pelo teste *Sit-to-Stand*, verificou-se uma melhoria significativa no grupo com o formato realidade virtual em relação ao convencional, aos três e seis meses. Estes resultados revelam a possível mais-valia da realidade virtual em relação ao formato convencional, contudo, estão condicionados pelo facto do GC ter também apresentado melhorias relativamente ao convencional. Foi interessante notar que houve uma melhoria no GC em relação ao convencional, aos três e seis meses. Apesar de não haver diferenças significativas entre os grupos no momento inicial, verificou-se no GC uma tendência para uma melhor performance no teste *Sit-to-Stand* o que pode justificar os resultados obtidos neste grupo, e que também vão de encontro aos resultados obtidos com o acelerómetro. De referir que o grupo com o formato realidade virtual apresentou melhorias entre o momento inicial e final e, tal como o convencional, entre o momento intermédio e final do estudo, já o GC apresentou melhorias entre o momento inicial e intermédio e o momento inicial e final do estudo.

No estudo de Mandic et al.³⁵ indivíduos idosos, com doença arterial coronária, a participar num programa de RC, fase de manutenção, melhoraram a força muscular dos membros inferiores, podendo assim estes programas ter um importante papel na manutenção a longo prazo e /ou atraso do declínio na força muscular dos membros inferiores, importante na manutenção da independência. Aspetos como estes, evidenciam a potencialidade e assim importância da fase de manutenção da RC, ainda que no presente estudo não se tenham verificado diferenças positivas relativamente ao GC.

Três meses após o fim do programa o grupo com o formato realidade virtual piorou o seu nível de atividade física sedentária, em comparação com o GC. Na atividade física moderada a vigorosa, e *counts* observou-se, no fim do programa, que o formato realidade virtual diminuiu significativamente, tendo, contudo, aumentado nos três meses após, mas não de forma significativa. De forma a não classificar com uma intensidade maior do que a verdadeira, os *cut points* utilizados foram os mais altos descritos na literatura, sendo assim mais exigentes.²³ Estes resultados podem ainda ser justificados pelo facto dos participantes, no início, virem da fase de treino e por isso estarem muito disciplinados, tendo essa disciplina diminuído ao longo dos seis meses, até mesmo pelo distanciamento psicológico ao evento cardíaco, mesmo que estimulados com algo novo como a realidade virtual. Ainda assim, tendo em conta a atividade física moderada a vigorosa, e *counts*, parece-nos que, após os seis meses, os participantes do formato realidade virtual começaram a evidenciar os benefícios da nova ferramenta,

podendo ser o resultado da disciplina e adaptação promovida pelo uso, durante seis meses, da realidade virtual.

De referir que, no que diz respeito à atividade física semanal recomendada, quer no início, expectável já que vinham da fase de treino, quer no final do programa e estudo, todos os participantes apresentavam valores de atividade física superiores aos recomendados, 150 minutos semanais de atividade no mínimo moderada.³⁶

É possível afirmar que os resultados obtidos na atividade física, se refletiram na manutenção da tolerância ao esforço, sendo importante lembrar que avaliação final, por motivos protocolares do hospital em causa, foi apenas realizada aproximadamente três meses após o término do programa. Seria importante ter dados das provas de esforço no momento do término do programa e compará-los com os três meses após. No presente estudo, cerca de 75% dos indivíduos apresentavam uma capacidade física superior ou igual a 10 METs, antes da realização do programa do estudo. Os valores basais em relação a esta variável eram assim de grande valor (expectável pois vinham da fase de treino), dificultando as variações positivas.³⁷

Os equivalentes metabólicos têm-se revelado importantes para a mensuração da capacidade funcional e prognóstico, quer em indivíduos saudáveis ou com doença cardiovascular, já que um aumento de 1 MET corresponde a um aumento de 12% na sobrevida.³⁸ O tempo de esforço é um aspeto também a ter em conta, uma vez que também reflete a capacidade de tolerância ao esforço, para além disso, por cada aumento de 1 minuto na duração da prova de esforço verifica-se uma redução de 7.9% na mortalidade no sexo masculino.³⁹ É importante em estudos futuros perceber como se comporta o duplo produto em repouso após execução de um programa de exercícios de seis meses, e relaciona-lo com o duplo produto máximo de forma a perceber, indiretamente, de que forma este conjunto de exercícios influencia a capacidade de trabalho do miocárdio.⁴⁰

Nesta amostra, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, ao longo do estudo/programa, tendo em conta as três sessões semanais, houve uma boa adesão média nos dois grupos ^{32,41}, maior que 65% nos dois formatos ³² nos primeiros e últimos três meses assim como na média dos seis meses tendo havido, contudo, de acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, uma diminuição nos últimos três meses. De acordo com Vieira et al.¹⁰, na adesão não foram encontradas diferenças significativas entre os grupos, não influenciando assim esta a análise dos resultados entre os grupos. Contudo, é importante ter em consideração que o grupo com o formato realidade virtual apresentou um maior número de indivíduos no ativo, o que pode ter condicionado a sua adesão ao programa de exercícios. A baixa na adesão com o decorrer do tempo pode significar que os participantes têm dificuldade em manter os hábitos de exercício físico ou que o protocolo, bem como as

alterações realizadas neste aos três meses, não são motivadores o suficiente para um espaço temporal longo.

Como limitações ao estudo temos que acrescentar a dificuldade em monitorizar objetivamente a adesão e o pequeno número de participantes, não permitindo extrapolar estes resultados para a população em geral. Em estudos futuros seria ainda importante a implementação deste tipo de estudo, numa amostra maior, com ambos os sexos e com estratificação por idade, índice de massa corporal e atividade física, encontrando formas de monitorizar com maior precisão a adesão e a mudança de comportamento, assim como a sua realização na fase de treino da RC.

Conclusões

O programa de exercícios específico, durante seis meses em contexto domiciliário, na fase de manutenção da RC, na amostra do presente estudo, poderá ter demonstrado benefícios na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores no grupo que realizou o programa com o formato realidade virtual, em comparação com o formato convencional. O formato realidade virtual poderá ser assim uma alternativa a explorar na RC sendo necessários mais estudos na fase de manutenção da RC, com uma amostra maior. O programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao GC e entre os diferentes formatos, na atividade física e tolerância ao esforço.

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CAPÍTULO VIII

Conclusões e perspectivas futuras

Conclusões

Tendo em conta o objetivo geral, e os estudos realizados nesta tese de doutoramento, baseada na reabilitação cardiovascular (RCV), é possível apontar algumas conclusões, ainda que a amostra utilizada seja de pequena dimensão.

Segundo o **estudo I**, apresentado no capítulo III, podemos concluir que o *Kinect*, especificamente o sistema *Kinect-RehabPlay*, utilizando a realidade virtual, poderá ser uma ferramenta útil na implementação de um programa de RCV, colmatando algumas das limitações do contexto domiciliário, tendo por base, em primeiro lugar, o *feedback* positivo dos utilizadores, após o programa de seis meses. Ainda assim, e segundo o **estudo I**, tendo por base aspetos tecnológicos e limitações diretamente relacionados com o *Kinect*, são ainda necessárias melhorias na captação do movimento e reconhecimento dos gestos, tal como referido pelos utilizadores.

O programa de exercícios específico de seis meses em contexto domiciliário, durante a fase de manutenção da RCV, segundo o **estudo II**, apresentado no capítulo IV, apresentou benefícios na composição corporal no grupo que realizou o programa com o formato realidade virtual. Especificamente foram atingidos ganhos no rácio cintura-anca nos três primeiros meses comparado com o grupo controlo (GC), o que pode revelar o potencial da realidade virtual com o *Kinect*, pelo menos nos primeiros três meses do programa. De referir que o programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao GC e entre os diferentes formatos, nos padrões de consumo alimentar e perfil lipídico.

Segundo o **estudo III**, apresentado no capítulo V, o grupo que realizou o programa com o formato realidade virtual apresentou também benefícios na função executiva, especificamente na capacidade de atenção seletiva e resolução de conflitos, quando comparado com o GC e o formato convencional. Desta forma, valida-se a pertinência da avaliação da função executiva num contexto de RCV. É ainda importante referir, que o programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao GC e entre os diferentes formatos, na qualidade de vida, e depressão, ansiedade e *stress*.

Tendo por base o **estudo IV**, apresentado no capítulo VI, o grupo que realizou o programa de exercícios com o formato realidade virtual apresentou ainda alguns benefícios, quando comparado com o GC, no equilíbrio dinâmico, assim como apresentou benefícios, quando comparado com o GC, no índice cifótico. Por outro lado, é também importante referir que o grupo que realizou o programa com o formato convencional apresentou também, mas apenas, alguns benefícios no equilíbrio dinâmico, quando comparado com o GC. No que diz respeito ao equilíbrio estático, o programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao GC e entre os diferentes formatos.

Por fim, e de acordo com o **estudo V**, apresentado no capítulo VII, o grupo que realizou o programa com o formato realidade virtual poderá ter também apresentado benefícios na força muscular funcional dos membros inferiores, em comparação com o formato convencional. De referir que o programa de exercícios não demonstrou resultados significativos superiores, relativamente ao GC e entre os diferentes formatos, na atividade física e tolerância ao esforço. De uma forma geral, com este trabalho, e tendo por base os resultados obtidos, conclui-se que, respondendo ao objetivo geral do mesmo, para esta amostra de indivíduos com doença arterial coronária, o programa de exercícios específico, realizado durante seis meses em contexto domiciliário na fase de manutenção da RCV terá sido uma mais-valia, em particular quando realizado com a realidade virtual, em parâmetros metabólicos, cognitivos, posturais e funcionais, não esquecendo o *feedback* positivo dos utilizadores do *Kinect*.

Desta forma, evidenciou-se e reforçou-se a relevância da implementação da fase de manutenção da RCV, não apenas com o propósito da manutenção dos ganhos obtidos com o programa de RCV na fase de treino, mas também a promoção de ainda mais ganhos em diferentes parâmetros. Da mesma forma, evidenciou-se a aplicabilidade do contexto domiciliário. Estes estudos ajudam assim, a validar os objetivos e princípios da RCV, colmatando algumas falhas na implementação destes programas, assim como reforçando a pertinência de avaliar outro tipo de parâmetros, não exclusivamente voltados para a capacidade funcional e revelando a grande potencialidade da realidade virtual.

Tendo por base um sistema de telereabilitação, como conclusão principal, pode-se afirmar que um programa de exercícios específico, implementado com um formato realidade virtual em contexto domiciliário, com recurso ao *Kinect*, poderá ser uma alternativa válida a explorar no contexto da reabilitação, em particular a cardiovascular.

Perspetivas futuras

Em trabalhos futuros, tal como referido nos estudos apresentados, de uma forma geral, seria importante que estes se centrassem em alguns dos défices técnicos do *Kinect*, assim como no uso do *Kinect-RehabPlay* noutro tipo de populações e eventualmente em grupos etários mais jovens. Sugere-se o estudo de estratégias de motivação para a prática do exercício físico, encontrando formas de monitorizar com maior precisão a adesão à prática de exercício físico, em particular em programas específicos. Seria importante, em trabalhos futuros, focar nos métodos para aumentar a motivação, identificando os principais impulsionadores da adesão ao exercício.

Seria igualmente muito importante consolidar os resultados obtidos, com os estudos apresentados, numa amostra maior e assim também estratificar os participantes por idade, índice de massa corporal, tal como por atividade física. Seria ainda útil analisar os parâmetros alvo de análise nos diferentes estudos, com ambos os sexos, assim como realizar este tipo de estudos na fase de treino da RCV.

Sugere-se por fim, em trabalhos futuros, a aliança com outros campos especializados, como a Psicologia, bem como a possibilidade de integrar um programa nutricional específico e personalizado orientado por um nutricionista.

CAPÍTULO IX

Anexos à tese

CONSIDERAÇÕES FINAIS

- ✓ Realize 3 vezes por semana o protocolo, em dias alternados;
- ✓ Para além da realização deste protocolo, é aconselhado que caminhe cerca de meia hora nos restantes dias.



Para medir a sua frequência cardíaca manualmente...

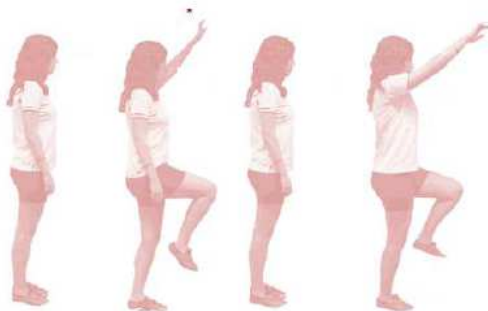
1. Coloque a palma da mão direita virada para cima;
2. Coloque a ponta dos dedos indicador e médio da mão esquerda na parte de dentro do pulso (do lado do polegar) na mão direita;
3. Pressione até que sinta a pulsação ou mova os dedos à procura de a sentir;
4. Conte as pulsações durante 30 segundos;
5. Multiplique esse valor por 2 e registre no **Diário do Exercício**.



Os exercícios devem ser realizados com uma **Borg** entre 12-13!!!



Exercício 1: Marcha Parada



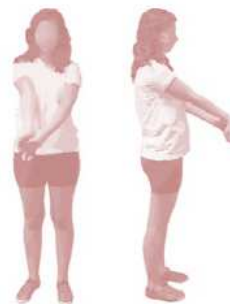
Objetivo: Aquecer os músculos dos braços e pernas

Dobre e levante ligeiramente o joelho direito (abaixo do nível da cintura), ao mesmo tempo que levanta o braço esquerdo. Alterne este movimento com o joelho esquerdo e braço direito.

Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício.

Deve realizar estes movimentos durante **10 minutos**, sem sair do mesmo sítio, ao seu ritmo (use o seu relógio).

Exercício 10— Alongamento dos músculos anteriores dos braços

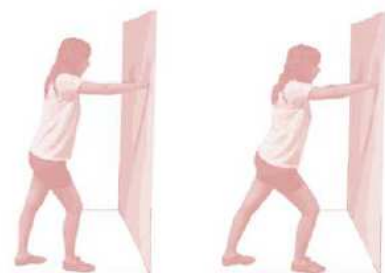


Objetivo: Melhorar a flexibilidade e relaxar os músculos usados

1. Na posição de pé, estique totalmente o braço direito (cotovelo estendido) com a palma da mão virada para cima, até cerca de 45 graus;
2. Coloque a mão esquerda sobre a palma da mão direita. Use a mão esquerda para puxar a mão para trás, até sentir o máximo alongamento e mantenha **15 segundos**. Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício;
3. Repita para o braço esquerdo;
4. Faça **4 vezes** para cada braço.



Exercício 9 — Alongamento dos músculos posteriores das pernas



Objetivo: Melhorar a flexibilidade e relaxar os músculos usados

5. Na posição de pé, apoie as suas mãos na parede (de frente para a parede) com os braços totalmente esticados. Caso não seja possível apoiar-se numa parede, apoie-se no encosto de uma cadeira pesada colocada lateralmente a si;
6. Coloque a perna direita à frente e de forma suave dobre o joelho direito até sentir o máximo alongamento na perna esquerda. Não deve levantar o pé esquerdo do chão, mantendo o joelho esquerdo esticado;
7. Mantenha **15 segundos** a posição de máximo alongamento, **4 vezes**. Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício;
8. Repita o exercício com a perna esquerda à frente.

Exercício 2 — Agachamentos

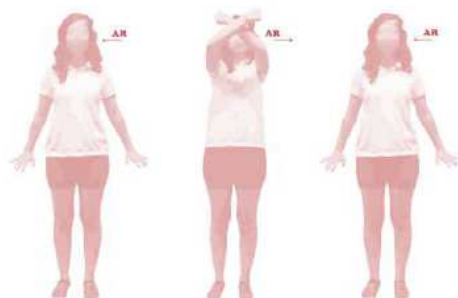


Objetivo: Fortalecer os músculos das pernas

1. Com os pés afastados à largura dos ombros, **encha o peito de ar**;
2. **Contando até 4**, dobre os joelhos, de forma a **descer em direção ao chão**, sem que os joelhos ultrapassem a ponta dos pés e a olhar sempre em frente, ao mesmo tempo que **deita o ar fora** e **eleva os braços** até cerca de 90 graus;
3. Volte devagar à posição inicial, contando **até 3** e a **encher o peito de ar**, ao mesmo tempo que **desce os braços em direção ao corpo**, sem mexer os pés do chão;
4. Repita **___ vezes**.



Exercício 3—“Cruzar” os braços



Objetivo: Melhorar a força dos músculos dos braços

1. Recomece a **marcha parada**, com os braços ao longo do corpo (palmas das mãos viradas para trás);
2. **Encha o peito de ar** e **contando até 4**, leve as mãos na direção dos ombros opostos, ao mesmo tempo que dobra os cotovelos e fecha as mãos e **deita o ar fora**, finalizando com um desenho em forma de uma cruz em frente ao seu rosto;
3. Retorne a posição inicial, contando **até 3** ao mesmo tempo que **enche o peito de ar**;
4. Repita **___ vezes**

Exercício 8 — Caminhada



Objetivo: Melhorar a endurance cardiorrespiratória

1. Caminhe durante cerca de **30 minutos** ao seu ritmo e com uma **respiração normal** (use o seu relógio). Mantenha os ombros e o pescoço relaxados, e direcione o olhar para a frente. Sincronize os seus braços com os movimentos das pernas.
2. **Tente aumentar o tempo de andar, 1 minuto por cada dia que realiza o protocolo, de modo a manter-se dentro da Borg indicada!**
3. Quando faltarem 5 minutos diminua a velocidade da marcha e, durante 2 minutos, realize movimentos de **rotação com os dois braços** simultaneamente, para a frente e depois para trás (mantendo o cotovelos estendidos). **Encha o peito de ar** quando leva os braços para cima e **deite o ar fora** quando desce.
4. No restante período de tempo deve realizar apenas marcha lenta.



Exercício 7 — Passo para a frente, para o lado e para trás



Objetivo: Melhorar o movimento e força muscular das pernas e braços

1. Na posição de pé, com os braços ao longo do corpo, próximo de uma mesa ou de uma cadeira pesada, onde poderá por a mão se se desequilibrar. Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício;
2. Avance o seu pé direito para a frente, apoiando-o completamente no chão, ao mesmo tempo que eleva os dois braços simultaneamente. Realize **__vezes**. Retome a posição inicial e repita com o pé esquerdo.
3. Repetir o mesmo exercício para o lado, ao mesmo tempo que abre os dois braços simultaneamente, primeiro com a perna direita e depois com a perna esquerda. Faça **__vezes**.
4. Repetir o mesmo exercício para trás, ao mesmo tempo que eleva os dois braços simultaneamente, primeiro com a perna direita e depois com a perna esquerda. Faça **__vezes**.



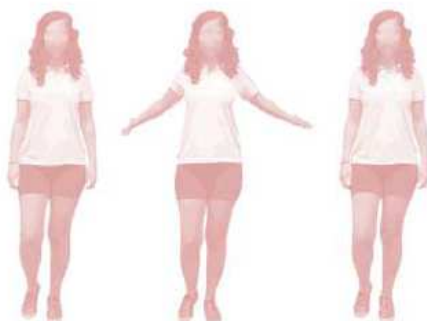
Exercício 4 — Movimentos dos tornozelos



Objetivo: Melhorar o movimento e força muscular dos tornozelos

1. Na **posição de pé**, com as mãos apoiadas no encosto da cadeira;
2. **Contando até 3**, puxe apenas a ponta dos dois pés para cima devagar, o máximo que puder;
3. Retome a posição inicial de forma controlada, contando também **até 3**. Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício;
4. Levante devagar os dois calcanhares do chão, contando **até 3**; e retome a posição inicial de forma controlada contando também **até 3**;
5. Repita **__vezes**;
6. Quando deixar de ter dificuldade, acrescente **__vezes**.

Exercício 5 — Movimento dos braços “para trás”

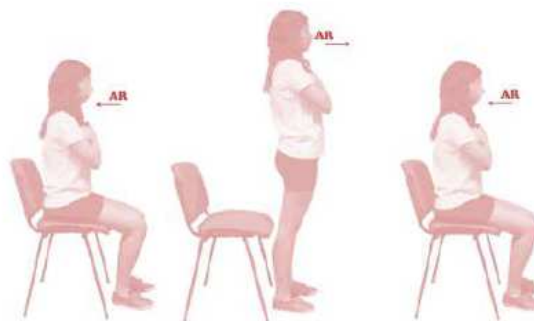


Objetivo: Melhorar a extensão da coluna

1. Recomece novamente a **marcha parada**, com os braços ao longo do corpo;
2. Abra os dois braços para os lados e para trás, rodando as palmas das mãos para o teto, contando **até 3**. No final do movimento faça **10 pequenas insistências**:
3. Nas primeiras **4** insistências **encha o peito de ar** e nas restantes **6** insistências **deite o ar fora**;
4. Retome a posição inicial, contando também **até 3**;
5. Repita **__vezes**.



Exercício 6 — Sentar e levantar



Objetivo: Melhorar o movimento e a força dos músculos das pernas

1. Sentado numa cadeira, **sem se apoiar no encosto**, com os braços cruzados no peito. Se possível, coloque uma mesa à frente, para servir de suporte para o caso de se desequilibrar;
2. **Encha o peito de ar** e **contando até 4**, levante-se, endireitando as costas e esticando as pernas **ao mesmo tempo que deita o ar fora**;
3. Sente-se, retomando a posição inicial de forma controlada, contando **até 3** e **enchendo o peito de ar**;
4. Repita **__vezes**.

CONSIDERAÇÕES FINAIS

- ✓ Realize 3 vezes por semana o protocolo, em dias alternados;
- ✓ Para além da realização deste protocolo, é aconselhado que caminhe cerca de meia hora nos restantes dias.



Para medir a sua frequência cardíaca manualmente...

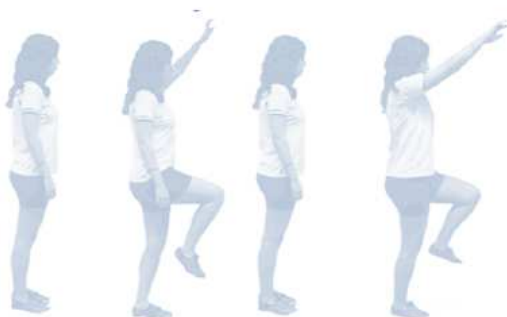
1. Coloque a palma da mão direita virada para cima;
2. Coloque a ponta dos dedos indicador e médio da mão esquerda na parte de dentro do pulso (do lado do polegar) na mão direita;
3. Pressione até que sinta a pulsação ou mova os dedos à procura de a sentir;
4. Conte as pulsações durante 30 segundos;
5. Multiplique esse valor por 2 e registe no **Diário do Exercício**.



Os exercícios devem ser realizados com uma **Borg** entre

12-13!!!

Exercício 1: Marcha Parada



Objetivo: Aquecer os músculos dos braços e pernas

Dobre e levante o joelho direito **até ao nível da cintura**, ao mesmo tempo que levanta o braço esquerdo. Alterne este movimento com o joelho esquerdo e braço direito.

Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício.

Deve realizar estes movimentos durante **10 minutos**, sem sair do mesmo sítio, ao seu ritmo (use o seu relógio).

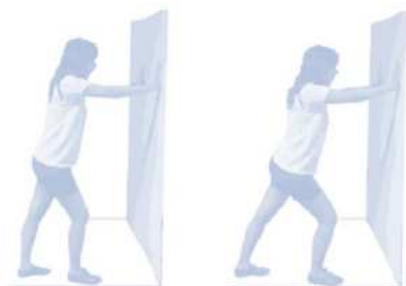
Exercício 10— Alongamento dos músculos anteriores dos braços



Objetivo: Melhorar a flexibilidade e relaxar os músculos usados

1. Na posição de pé, estique totalmente o braço direito (cotovelo estendido) com a palma da mão virada para cima, até cerca de 45 graus;
2. Coloque a mão esquerda sobre a palma da mão direita. Use a mão esquerda para puxar a mão para trás, até sentir o máximo alongamento e mantenha **15 segundos**. Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício;
3. Repita para o braço esquerdo;
4. Faça **4 vezes** para cada braço.

Exercício 9 — Alongamento dos músculos posteriores das pernas



Objetivo: Melhorar a flexibilidade e relaxar os músculos usados

5. Na posição de pé, apoie as suas mãos na parede (de frente para a parede) com os braços totalmente esticados. Caso não seja possível apoiar-se numa parede, apoie-se no encosto de uma cadeira pesada colocada lateralmente a si;
6. Coloque a perna direita à frente e de forma suave dobre o joelho direito até sentir o máximo alongamento na perna esquerda. Não deve levantar o pé esquerdo do chão, mantendo o joelho esquerdo esticado;
7. Mantenha **15 segundos** a posição de máximo alongamento, **4 vezes**. Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício;
8. Repita o exercício com a perna esquerda à frente.

Exercício 2 — Agachamentos

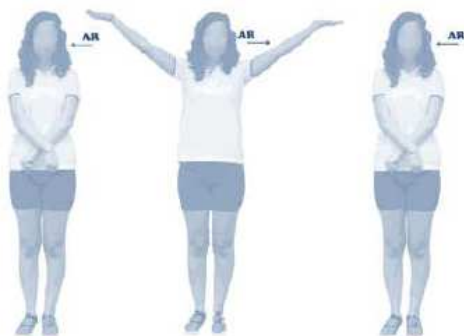


Objetivo: Fortalecer os músculos das pernas

1. Com os pés afastados à largura dos ombros, **encha o peito de ar**;
2. **Contando até 4**, dobre os joelhos, de forma a **descer em direção ao chão**, sem que os joelhos ultrapassem a ponta dos pés e a olhar sempre em frente, ao mesmo tempo que **deita o ar fora** e **eleva os braços** até cerca de 90 graus;
3. Volte devagar à posição inicial, contando **até 3** e a **encher o peito de ar**, ao mesmo tempo que **desce os braços em direção ao corpo**, sem mexer os pés do chão;
4. Repita **__ vezes**;
5. **Faça uma pausa de 1 minuto** e depois volte a repetir os pontos 1,2,3 e 4.



Exercício 3—“Descruzar” os braços



Objetivo: Melhorar a força dos músculos dos braços e extensão da coluna

1. Recomece a **marcha parada**, com os braços cruzados em cima da barriga com os cotovelos dobrados e mãos fechadas;
2. **Contando até 3**, leve as mãos na direção do teto **enchendo o peito de ar**, ao mesmo tempo que estica os cotovelos e abre as mãos, finalizando com as palmas das mãos viradas para o teto;
3. Retome a posição inicial, contando **até 4** ao mesmo tempo que **deita o ar fora**;
4. Repita **__ vezes**;
5. **Faça uma pausa de 1 minuto** e depois repita o exercício.

Exercício 8 — Caminhada



Objetivo: Melhorar a endurance cardiorrespiratória

1. Caminhe durante cerca de **60 minutos** ao seu ritmo e com uma **respiração normal** (use o seu relógio). Mantenha os ombros e o pescoço relaxados, e direcione o olhar para a frente. Sincronize os seus braços com os movimentos das pernas.
2. **Tente aumentar a velocidade da marcha lentamente, ao longo dos dias em que realiza o protocolo, mantendo-se sempre com uma Borg entre 12-13!**
3. Quando faltarem 5 minutos diminua a velocidade da marcha e, durante 2 minutos, realize movimentos de **rotação com os dois braços** simultaneamente, para a frente e depois para trás (mantendo o cotovelo estendido). **Encha o peito de ar** quando leva os braços para cima e **deite o ar fora** quando desce.
4. No restante período de tempo deve realizar apenas marcha lenta.



Exercício 7 — Passo para a frente, para o lado e para trás



Objetivo: Melhorar o movimento e força muscular das pernas e braços

1. Na posição de pé, com os braços ao longo do corpo, próximo de uma mesa ou de uma cadeira pesada, onde poderá por a mão se se desequilibrar. Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício;
2. Avance o seu pé direito para a frente, apoiando-o completamente no chão, ao mesmo tempo que eleva os dois braços simultaneamente. Realize **__vezes**. Retome a posição inicial e repita com o pé esquerdo.
3. Repetir o mesmo exercício para o lado, ao mesmo tempo que abre os dois braços simultaneamente, primeiro com a perna direita e depois com a perna esquerda. Faça **__vezes**.
4. Repetir o mesmo exercício para trás, ao mesmo tempo que eleva os dois braços simultaneamente, primeiro com a perna direita e depois com a perna esquerda. Faça **__vezes**.
5. **Faça uma pausa de 1 minuto e depois volte a repetir os pontos 2, 3 e 4.**



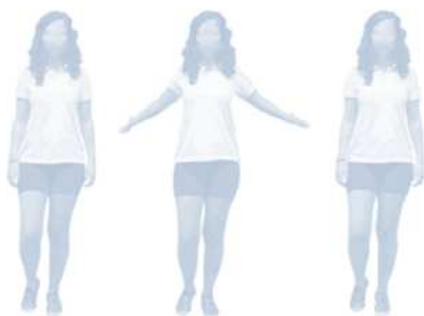
Exercício 4 — Movimentos dos tornozelos



Objetivo: Melhorar o movimento e força muscular dos tornozelos

1. Na **posição de pé**, com as mãos apoiadas no encosto da cadeira;
2. **Contando até 3**, puxe apenas a ponta dos dois pés para cima devagar, o máximo que puder;
3. Retome a posição inicial de forma controlada, contando também **até 3**. Deve **respirar normalmente** durante o exercício;
4. Levante devagar os dois calcanhares do chão, contando **até 3**; e retome a posição inicial de forma controlada contando também **até 3**;
5. Repita **__vezes**;
6. **Faça uma pausa de 1 minuto e depois volte a repetir os pontos 2, 3 e 4.**
7. Quando deixar de ter dificuldade, acrescente **__vezes**.

Exercício 5 — Movimento dos braços “para trás”

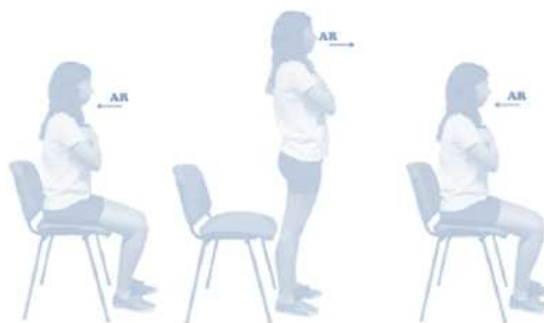


Objetivo: Melhorar a extensão da coluna

1. Recomece novamente a **marcha parada**, com os braços ao longo do corpo;
2. Abra os dois braços para os lados e para trás, rodando as palmas das mãos para o teto, contando **até 3**. No final do movimento faça **10 pequenas insistências**;
3. Nas primeiras **4 insistências encha o peito de ar** e nas restantes **6 insistências deite o ar fora**;
4. Retome a posição inicial, contando também **até 3**;
5. Repita **__vezes**.
6. **Faça uma pausa de 1 minuto e depois repita o exercício.**



Exercício 6 — Sentar e levantar



Objetivo: Melhorar o movimento e a força dos músculos das pernas

Deve realizar este exercício com um assento mais baixo que anteriormente. Por exemplo no seu sofá.

1. Sentado numa cadeira, **sem se apoiar no encosto**, com os braços cruzados no peito. Se possível, coloque uma mesa à frente, para servir de suporte para o caso de se desequilibrar;
2. **Encha o peito de ar** e **contando até 4**, levante-se, endireitando as costas e esticando as pernas **ao mesmo tempo que deita o ar fora**;
3. Sente-se, retomando a posição inicial de forma controlada, contando **até 3** e **enchendo o peito de ar**;
4. Repita **__vezes**.

Anexo 3: Indicações de preparação – formato realidade virtual

No âmbito do Doutoramento em Ciências Biomédicas no Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar

Programa de Reabilitação Cardiovascular - Virtual

Antes de iniciar o exercício...prepare o espaço e equipamento:



- ✓ Encontre, em sua casa, uma divisão com um espaço amplo, onde possa instalar o computador e fazer os exercícios sem limitações de espaço;
- ✓ Um espaço bem iluminado;
- ✓ Para evitar distrações, durante a sessão, utilize sempre o mesmo espaço para a realização do programa de exercícios e faça-o sozinho.

1. Localização adequada do sensor

O sensor deve ser posicionado 0,6-1,8 m do chão, sem nada entre si e o sensor. Limpe a área.

Verifique se o sensor não está muito para trás e que não existe nada na frente do sensor.

Certifique-se que nada impede o sensor de se inclinar automaticamente para cima ou para baixo. A luz no sensor deve ser verde, o que significa que o sensor está ativado.

2. Boa iluminação

Certifique-se de que a divisão onde vai realizar os exercícios tem luz suficiente para que seu rosto seja claramente visível e uniformemente iluminado. Tente minimizar luz lateral ou traseira, especialmente a partir de uma janela.

Não se esqueça ainda de:

- ✓ Certificar-se que nada está a tapar o seu rosto, como um chapéu, cabelo ou óculos reflectivos.
- ✓ Retirar pulseiras, colares e se possível anéis;
- ✓ Usar roupa não muito larga e, de preferência, clara
- ✓ Utilizar calçado apropriado, de preferência sapatilhas (ou calçado que apoie todo o pé) de cor clara.

Não se esqueça ainda de todas as **indicações referidas no manual de exercícios**.

Anexo 4: Indicações de preparação – formato convencional

No âmbito do Doutoramento em Ciências Biomédicas no Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar

Programa de Reabilitação Cardiovascular

Antes de iniciar o exercício...prepare o espaço:



- ✓ Encontre, em sua casa, uma divisão com um espaço amplo, onde possa fazer os exercícios sem limitações de espaço;
- ✓ Um espaço de preferência, com iluminação natural. Garanta que se trata de um espaço bem iluminado;
- ✓ Para evitar distrações, durante a sessão, este espaço deve ser utilizado exclusivamente para a realização do programa de exercícios.

Não se esqueça ainda de todas as **indicações referidas no manual de exercícios**.

Anexo 5: Diário do exercício



ID _____

Este é o seu diário do exercício! Não se esqueça de registrar!

*FC – Frequência Cardíaca

DATA/ Hora	Ansioso/ Nervoso (Sim ou Não)	FC* Antes do exercício	Comentários	Durante o exercício										FC* Final do exercício	Comentários
				Final do exercício 2		Final do exercício 5		Final do exercício 7		Ao fim de 15 minutos de caminhada (exercício 8)		Final do exercício 8			
FC*	BORG	FC*	BORG	FC*	BORG	FC*	BORG	FC*	BORG	FC*	BORG				

Anexo 6: Questionário *Kinect*

ID _____



Data ____/____/____

Kinect

Solicita-se que responda, por favor, a todas as questões com total seriedade e sinceridade, relativamente ao *Kinect*, assinalando, quando se aplicar, com uma cruz (x) a resposta que se aplica a si. Deve ser selecionada apenas uma opção.

1. Gostou do grafismo do programa?

☐ Sim

☐ Não

2. Considerou importante e útil a contagem automática do número de repetições?

☐ Sim

☐ Não

3. Sente-se motivado para continuar a realizar o programa de exercícios depois do fim do estudo?

☐ Sim


☐ Não

4. Considera o *Kinect* um instrumento com potencial para ser uma mais-valia na reabilitação cardiovascular?

☐ Sim

☐ Não

5. Se for o caso, refira as suas principais críticas ao *Kinect*?

 ID _____

Muito obrigado pela sua colaboração!

Ágata Vieira

Anexo 7: Questionário Semi-quantitativo de frequência alimentar

ID _____



Data ____/____/____

O questionário seguinte tem como objectivo avaliar a sua alimentação. Por favor, procure responder às questões de uma forma sincera, indicando aquilo que realmente come e não o que gostaria de comer, ou pensa que seria correcto comer.

O questionário pretende identificar o consumo de alimentos do ano anterior. Assim para cada alimento, deve assinalar, no respetivo círculo, quantas vezes por dia, semana ou mês comeu em média, nos últimos 12 meses, cada um dos alimentos referidos nesta lista. Não se esqueça de assinalar os alimentos que nunca comeu, ou que come menos de 1 vez por mês na coluna nunca ou menos de 1 por mês.

Não se esqueça de ter em conta não só as vezes que o alimento é consumido sozinho mas também, aquelas em que é adicionado a outros alimentos ou pratos (ex: o café do café com leite, os ovos das omeletas, etc).

Para os alimentos que só comeu em determinadas épocas do ano (por ex: cerejas ou diospiros), assinale as vezes em que comeu o alimento nessa época, colocando uma cruz (x) na última coluna (Sazonal).

No item nº 86, anote a frequência com que comeu sopa de legumes. Quando consome caldo verde, canja ou sopa instantânea, com uma frequência de pelo menos 1 vez por semana, deve assinalar a frequência com que comeu este alimento no quadro existente para "OUTROS ALIMENTOS", tendo o cuidado de não o contar na frequência que refere para a sopa de legumes.

Se houver algum alimento não mencionado na lista de alimentos e que tenha consumido pelo menos 1 vez por semana, assinale, no quadro que existe para "OUTROS ALIMENTOS", a respectiva frequência e indique a quantidade média que costuma comer de cada vez. Por ex: frutos tropicais, sumos de fruta natural, farinha de pau, canja, alheiras, cevada, rebuçados, etc.

Por exemplo: Uma pessoa que bebe leite 2 vezes por dia e o leite que bebe é meio gordo, se a maior parte dos gelados que come é no verão e nessa época come um gelado por dia deve assinalar:

I. PRODUTOS LÁCTEOS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									Sazonal
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
1. Leite gordo	1 chávena = 250 ml	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Leite meio-gordo	1 chávena = 250 ml	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Leite magro	1 chávena = 250 ml	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Gelados	Um ou 2 bolas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Preencha assim:



Não preencha assim:



Por exemplo: se come sopa uma vez por dia, mas 1 vez por semana é canja e não sopa de legumes assinala:

VIII. BEBIDAS E MISCELÂNEAS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									Sazonal
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
86. Sopa de legumes	1 prato	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OUTROS ALIMENTOS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									Sazonal
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
CANJA	PRATO	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


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Pense nos últimos 12 meses quantas vezes por dia, semana ou mês, em média, comeu cada um dos alimentos referidos. Não se esqueça de assinalar os alimentos que nunca comeu, ou comeu menos de 1 vez por mês na coluna (Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês).

No grupo I. PRODUTOS LÁCTEOS - Não se esqueça de considerar o leite que bebe com o café (exemplo: meia de leite, galão,...).

I. PRODUTOS LÁCTEOS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
1. Leite gordo	1 chávena = 250 ml	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Leite meio-gordo	1 chávena = 250 ml	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Leite magro	1 chávena = 250 ml	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Iogurte	Um = 125g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Queijo (de qualquer tipo incluindo queijo fresco e requeijão)	1 fatia = 30g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Sobremesas lácteas: pudim flan, pudim de chocolate, etc	Um ou 1 prato de sobremesa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Gelados	Um ou 2 bolas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No grupo II. OVOS, CARNES E PEIXES - considere também as vezes que come cada um destes alimentos como elementos de outros pratos. por exemplo: o frango do arroz de frango. os ovos das omeletas. as salsichas dos cachorros.

II. OVOS, CARNES E PEIXES	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
8. Ovos	Um	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Frango	2 peças ou 1/4 de frango	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Peru, Coelho	1 porção ou 2 peças	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Carne: vaca, porco, cabrito	1 porção = 120g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Fígado de vaca, porco, frango	1 porção = 120g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Língua, Mão de vaca, Tripas, Chispe, Coração, Rim	1 porção = 100g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Fiambre, Chouriço, Salpicão, Presunto, etc	2 fatias ou 3 rodellas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Salsichas	3 médias	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Toucinho, Bacon	2 fatias	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Peixe gordo: sardinha, cavala, carapau, salmão, etc	1 porção = 125g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Peixe magro: pescada, faneca, dourada, etc	1 porção = 125g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Bacalhau	1 posta média	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Peixe conserva: atum, sardinhas, etc	1 lata	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Lulas, Polvo	1 porção = 100g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Camarão, Amêijoas, Mexilhão, etc	1 prato de sobremesa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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No grupo III. ÓLEOS E GORDURAS - responda apenas ao que é adicionado em saladas, no prato, no pão, etc, e não considere a utilizada para cozinhar.

III. ÓLEOS E GORDURAS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar								Sim Não Não sabe	
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia		6 ou mais por dia
23. Azeite	1 colher de sopa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Óleos: girassol, milho, soja	1 colher de sopa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Margarina	1 colher de chá	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Manteiga	1 colher de chá	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No grupo IV. PÃO CEREAIS E SIMILARES - não se esqueça de considerar também o que come fora das refeições, por exemplo: as batatas fritas da refeição e as que come fora das refeições.

IV. PÃO, CEREAIS E SIMILARES	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar								Sim Não Não sabe	
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia		6 ou mais por dia
27. Pão branco ou Tostas	Um ou 2 tostas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. Pão (ou tostas), integral, centeio, mistura	Um ou 2 tostas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. Brioche, Brioche de avintes	1 fatia = 80g	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Flocos cereais: muesli, corn-flakes, chocapic, etc.	1 chávena (sem leite)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. Arroz	½ prato	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. Massas: esparguete, macarrão, etc.	½ prato	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Batatas fritas caseiras	½ prato	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34. Batatas fritas de pacote	1 pacote pequeno	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35. Batatas cozidas, assadas, estufadas e purê	2 batatas médias	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No grupo V. DOCES E PASTÉIS - no item 42 (açúcar) considere quantas colheres ou pacotes de açúcar adiciona ao seus alimentos.

V. DOCES E PASTÉIS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar								Sim Não Não sabe	
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia		6 ou mais por dia
36. Bolachas tipo maria, água e sal ou integrais	3 bolachas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. Outras bolachas ou Biscoitos	3 bolachas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38. Croissant, Pastéis, Bolcao, Doughnut ou Bolos caseiros	Um; 1 fatia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39. Chocolate (tablete ou em pó)	3 quadrado; 1 colher sopa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40. Snacks de chocolate (Mars, Twix, Kit Kat, etc)	Um	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41. Marmelada, Compota, Geleia, Mel	1 colher sobremesa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42. Açúcar	1 colher sobremesa; 1 pacote	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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No grupo VI - HORTALIÇAS E LEGUMES - responda pensando nos que são consumidos no prato (cozidos ou em saladas) e não nos que entram na confecção da sopa. Nos que come só numa determinada época do ano não se esqueça de assinalar na coluna sazonal (x).

VI. HORTALIÇAS E LEGUMES	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									Sazonal
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
43. Couve branca, Couve lombarda	½ chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44. Pénca, Tronchuda	½ chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
45. Couve galega	½ chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46. Brócolos	½ chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47. Couve-flor, Couve-bruxelas	½ chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
48. Grelos, Nabica, Espinafres	½ chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
49. Feijão verde	½ chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50. Alface, Agrião	½ chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
51. Cebola	½ média	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
52. Cenoura	1 média	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
53. Nabo	1 médio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
54. Tomate fresco	3 rodela	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
55. Pimento	6 rodela	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
56. Pepino	½ médio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
57. Leguminosas: feijão, grão de bico	1 chávena ou ½ prato	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58. Ervilha em grão, Fava	½ chávena ou ½ prato	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No grupo VII - FRUTOS - recorde que para os alimentos que só comeu em determinadas épocas do ano (por exemplo, cerejas), deve assinalar as vezes em que comeu o alimento nessa época, colocando uma cruz (x) na última coluna (Sazonal).

VII. FRUTOS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									Sazonal
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
59. Maça, pêra	1 média	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
60. Laranja, Tangerinas	1 média; 2 médias	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
61. Banana	1 média	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
62. Kiwi	1 médio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
63. Morangos	1 chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
64. Cerejas	1 chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
65. Pêssego, Ameixa	1 médio; 3 médios	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66. Melão, Melancia	1 lata média	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
67. Diospiro	1 médio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
68. Figo fresco, Nêspas, Damascos	3 médios	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
69. Uvas frescas	1 cacho médio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
70. Frutos conserva: pêssego, ananás	2 metades ou rodela	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
71. Amêndoas, Avelãs, Nozes, Amendoins, Pistachio, etc.	½ chávena dessecado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
72. Azeitonas	6 unidades	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





ID _____



No grupo VIII - BEBIDAS E MISCELANEAS - neste grupo não considere os sumos naturais (estes devem ser registados na tabela "OUTROS ALIMENTOS"), não se esqueça dos que são adicionados a outras bebidas, por exemplo: considere aqui o café da meia de leite.

VIII. BEBIDAS E MISCELANEAS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									Sim ou Não
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
73. Vinho	1 copo = 125ml	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
74. Cerveja	1 garrafa ou 1 lata	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
75. Bebidas brancas: whisky, aguardente, brandy, etc.	1 cálice = 40 ml	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
76. Coca-cola, Pepsi-cola ou outras	1 garrafa ou 1 lata	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
77. Ice-tea	1 garrafa ou 1 lata	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
78. Outros refrigerantes, Sumos de fruta ou Néctares embalados	1 garrafa ou 1 copo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
79. Café (incluindo o adicionado a outras bebidas)	1 chávena café	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
80. Chá preto e verde	1 chávena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
81. Croquetes, Rissóis, Bolinhos de bacalhau, etc.	3 unidades	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
82. Maionese	1 colher sobremesa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
83. Molho de tomate, ketchup	1 colher sopa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
84. Pizza	Mesa pizza-média	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
85. Hambúrguer	Um médio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86. Sopa de legumes	1 prato	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Coloque neste quadro informação relativa aos restantes alimentos ou bebidas que não estejam na lista anterior e que tenha consumido pelo menos 1 vez por semana mesmo em pequenas quantidades, ou numa época em particular. Por exemplo: farinha de pau, canja, alheiras, farinheiras, frutos secos (figos, ameixas, alperces), cevada, etc.

OUTROS ALIMENTOS	Porção Média	Frequência alimentar									Sim ou Não
		Nunca ou menos de 1 por mês	1 a 3 por mês	1 por semana	2 a 4 por semana	5 a 6 por semana	1 por dia	2 a 3 por dia	4 a 5 por dia	6 ou mais por dia	
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

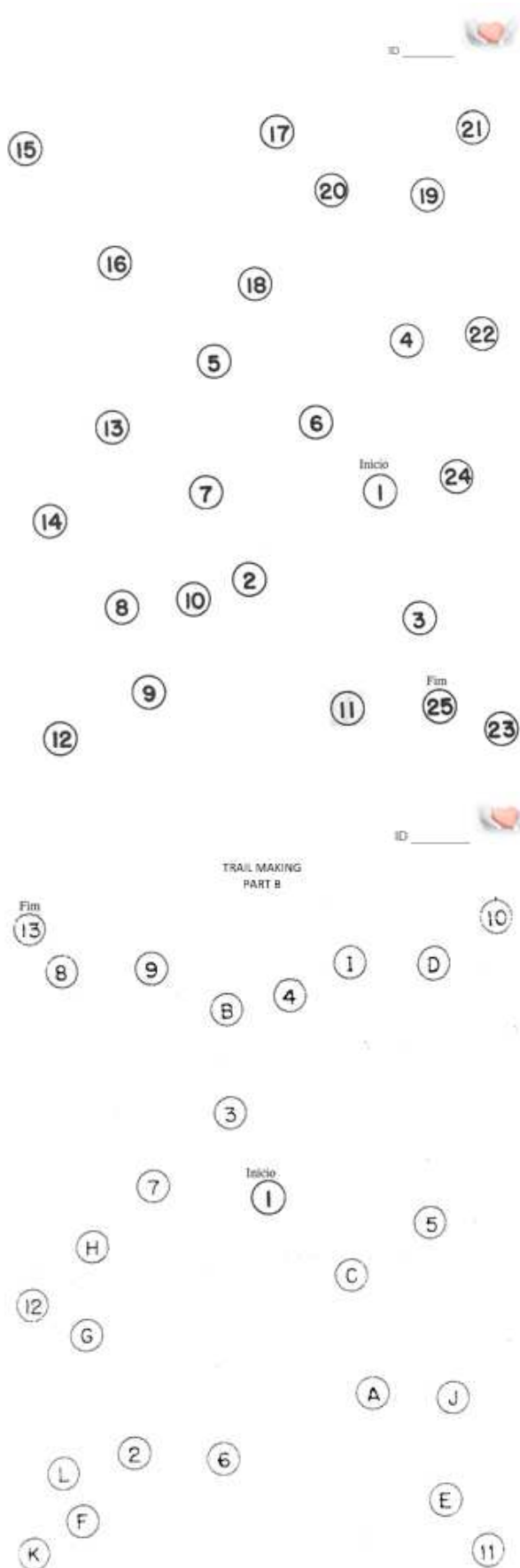
Muito obrigado pela sua colaboração!

Ágata Vieira



Unidade de Epidemiologia Nutricional
Serviço de Higiene e Epidemiologia - FMUP

Anexo 9: Teste *Trail Making*



Anexo 10: Teste Verbal Digit Span

ID _____



Verbal digit Span – Para a frente

		1ª Tentativa	2ª Tentativa
1ª NÍVEL (3 dígitos)			
	231		
	476		
2ª NÍVEL (4 dígitos)			
	5798		
	6190		
3ª NÍVEL (5 dígitos)			
	16524		
	95784		
4ª NÍVEL (6 dígitos)			
	103 893		
	571 932		
5ª NÍVEL (7 dígitos)			
	8625 142		
	1045627		
6ª NÍVEL (8 dígitos)			
	5982 3417		
	1945 3269		
7ª NÍVEL (9 dígitos)			
	486 921 723		
	375 293 834		

Pontuação total: _____

Tempo limite 5 minutos

ID _____



Verbal digit Span – Para trás/inversa/backwards

		1ª Tentativa	2ª Tentativa
1ª NÍVEL (2 dígitos)			
	37		
	59		
2ª NÍVEL (3 dígitos)			
	893		
	527		
3ª NÍVEL (4 dígitos)			
	4985		
	9371		
4ª NÍVEL (5 dígitos)			
	37 491		
	52 753		
5ª NÍVEL (6 dígitos)			
	864 759		
	104 346		
6ª NÍVEL (7 dígitos)			
	479 1638		
	195 5748		
7ª NÍVEL (8 dígitos)			
	4529 6142		
	7328 3654		

Pontuação total: _____

Tempo limite 5 minutos

Anexo 12: Questionário MacNew

ID _____



Data ____/____/____

MacNew

Gostaríamos de lhe fazer algumas perguntas sobre o modo como se tem sentido **NAS 4 ÚLTIMAS SEMANAS**. Por favor, marque com um "X" o espaço ☐ que corresponde à sua resposta.

1- Com que frequência se sentiu frustrado, impaciente ou irritado durante as 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

2- Com que frequência se sentiu inútil ou deslocado do seu ambiente, durante as 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

3- Durante as 4 últimas semanas, quanto tempo se sentiu muito confiante e seguro que poderia lidar com o seu problema cardíaco?

- 1 ☐ Nunca
- 2 ☐ Raramente
- 3 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 6 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 7 ☐ Sempre

ID _____



4- Em geral, quanto tempo se sentiu desencorajado ou "em baixo", nas últimas 4 semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

5- Quanto tempo, se sentiu relaxado e livre de tensões nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Nunca
- 2 ☐ Raramente
- 3 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 6 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 7 ☐ Sempre

6- Com que frequência, se sentiu desgastado ou sem energia, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

7- Quão feliz ou satisfeito se sentiu nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Muito insatisfeito, infeliz na maior parte do tempo
- 2 ☐ Geralmente insatisfeito, infeliz
- 3 ☐ Pouco insatisfeito, infeliz
- 4 ☐ Geralmente satisfeito, feliz
- 5 ☐ Feliz, na maior parte do tempo
- 6 ☐ Muito feliz, na maior parte do tempo
- 7 ☐ Extremamente feliz, não poderia estar mais satisfeito

ID _____



8- Em geral, com que frequência se sentiu agitado ou como se não pudesse acalmar, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

9- Em que grau, teve dificuldade em respirar, enquanto realizava suas atividades físicas de vida diária, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Extrema dificuldade em respirar
- 2 ☐ Grande dificuldade em respirar
- 3 ☐ Dificuldade em respirar
- 4 ☐ Dificuldade moderada
- 5 ☐ Pouca dificuldade em respirar
- 6 ☐ Pequena dificuldade em respirar
- 7 ☐ Sem dificuldade em respirar

10- Com que frequência sentiu vontade de chorar, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

11- Com que frequência, se sentiu mais dependente do que era antes do seu problema cardíaco, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

ID _____



12- Com que frequência, se sentiu incapaz de realizar as suas atividades sociais, em geral ou com a sua família, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

13- Com que frequência, sentiu que os outros não tinham a mesma confiança em si, como tinham antes do problema cardíaco, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

14- Com que frequência, teve dores no peito durante as atividades do dia-a-dia, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

15- Com que frequência, se sentiu inseguro ou com pouca autoconfiança, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

ID _____



16- Com que frequência, se sentiu incomodado, com cansaço ou dores nas pernas, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

17- Devido ao seu problema cardíaco, quanto se sentiu limitado para praticar desporto ou fazer exercício, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Extremamente limitado
- 2 ☐ Muito limitado
- 3 ☐ Bastante limitado
- 4 ☐ Moderadamente limitado
- 5 ☐ Pouco limitado
- 6 ☐ Muito pouco limitado
- 7 ☐ Sem qualquer limitação

18- Com que frequência, se sentiu apreensivo ou com medo, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

19- Com que frequência, sentiu tonturas, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

ID _____



20- Em geral, por causa do seu problema cardíaco, quanto se sentiu restringido ou limitado, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Extremamente limitado
- 2 ☐ Muito limitado
- 3 ☐ Bastante limitado
- 4 ☐ Moderadamente limitado
- 5 ☐ Pouco limitado
- 6 ☐ Muito pouco limitado
- 7 ☐ Sem qualquer limitação

21- Com que frequência, se sentiu inseguro sobre a quantidade de exercício ou atividade física que deveria realizar, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

22- Com que frequência, sentiu que a sua família estava a ser super-protetora consigo, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

23- Com que frequência, se sentiu uma sobrecarga ou “fardo” para outras as pessoas, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

ID _____



24- Com que frequência, se sentiu excluído de atividades com outras pessoas, devido ao seu problema cardíaco, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

25- Com que frequência, se sentiu incapaz de manter contactos sociais por causa do seu problema cardíaco, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

26- Em geral, por causa do seu problema cardíaco, quanto se sentiu limitado nas suas atividades físicas, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Extremamente limitado
- 2 ☐ Muito limitado
- 3 ☐ Bastante limitado
- 4 ☐ Moderadamente limitado
- 5 ☐ Pouco limitado
- 6 ☐ Muito pouco limitado
- 7 ☐ Sem qualquer limitação

27- Com que frequência, sentiu que o seu problema cardíaco afetou as suas relações sexuais, nas 4 últimas semanas?

- 1 ☐ Sempre
- 2 ☐ Quase Sempre
- 3 ☐ Uma grande parte do tempo
- 4 ☐ Uma parte do tempo
- 5 ☐ Pouco tempo
- 6 ☐ Raramente
- 7 ☐ Nunca

Anexo 13: Escala de Ansiedade Depressão e Stress 21

ID _____



Data ____/____/____

EADS-21

Por favor leia cada uma das afirmações abaixo e assinale 0, 1, 2 ou 3 para indicar quanto cada afirmação se aplicou a si *durante a semana passada*. Não há respostas certas ou erradas. Não leve muito tempo a indicar a sua resposta em cada afirmação.

A classificação é a seguinte:

- 0 – não se aplicou nada a mim
- 1 – aplicou-se a mim algumas vezes
- 2 – aplicou-se a mim de muitas vezes
- 3 – aplicou-se a mim a maior parte das vezes

1 Tive dificuldades em me acalmar	0	1	2	3
2 Senti a minha boca seca	0	1	2	3
3 Não consegui sentir nenhum sentimento positivo	0	1	2	3
4 Senti dificuldades em respirar	0	1	2	3
5 Tive dificuldade em tomar iniciativa para fazer coisas	0	1	2	3
6 Tive tendência a reagir em demasia em determinadas situações	0	1	2	3
7 Senti tremores (por ex., nas mãos)	0	1	2	3
8 Senti que estava a utilizar muita energia nervosa	0	1	2	3
9 Preocupe-me com situações em que podia entrar em pânico e fazer figura ridícula	0	1	2	3
10 Senti que não tinha nada a esperar do futuro	0	1	2	3
11 Dei por mim a ficar agitado	0	1	2	3
12 Senti dificuldade em me relaxar	0	1	2	3
13 Senti-me desanimado e melancólico	0	1	2	3

ID _____



14 Estive intolerante em relação a qualquer coisa que me impedisse de terminar aquilo que estava a fazer	0	1	2	3
15 Senti-me quase a entrar em pânico	0	1	2	3
16 Não fui capaz de ter entusiasmo por nada	0	1	2	3
17 Senti que não tinha muito valor como pessoa	0	1	2	3
18 Senti que por vezes estava sensível	0	1	2	3
19 Senti alterações no meu coração sem fazer exercício físico	0	1	2	3
20 Senti-me assustado sem ter tido uma boa razão para isso	0	1	2	3
21 Senti que a vida não tinha sentido	0	1	2	3

Muito obrigado pela sua colaboração!

Ágata Vieira